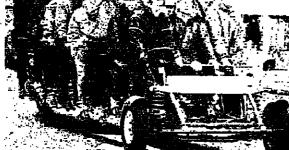
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INSIDE THE TABLOID



IN THE TABLOID THE SUMMER'S MOST EXPLOSIVE BLOCKBUSTER



Margaret Morrissey: Insisted last night she will not step down

Photograph: Boumemouth News and Pictures

Scandal of the parents' eaders

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

Three top officers of England's largest and richest parents' group have been asked to resign by charity watchdogs and may have

to pay back tens of thousands of pounds The Charity Commission made its recommendation, leaked to The Independent. following an investigation into alleged improprieties at the National Association of Parent Teacher Associations (NCPTA), a charity representing parents of children in

over 11,000 schools The inquiry found the treasurer, press officer and administrator of the NCPTA had all been appointed to their paid part-time posts while still trustees of the charity. Under charity law, it is illegal to benefit financially from a trusteeship.

The three earn annual salaries of £10,000 plus expenses and have been employed for up to five years by the charity, which draws its £750,000 annual income from school subscriptions of up to £80 a year. They have been advised by the commission to seek urgent legal advice over whether they

should repay their wages. The resignation call, which precedes publication of the commission's expected challenged by the charity.

The Charity Commission investigation, launched in February this year, marked the culmination of years of turmoil within the NCPTA, which was once dubbed "neanderthal" by the former education secretary, John Patten, and last year sacked two trustees who said that they wanted to put the organisation on a more professional footing.

Complaints made to commissioners in-

cluded allegations of improper employment procedures, mismanagement and conflicts of interest. People connected with the association were accused of extra-marital affairs, drunkenness, junketing in expensive hotels and expenses improprieties. Members of local PTA federations, who affiliate to the national body mainly for the insurance cover it offers for events such as fetes, have complained of money being spent on costly meetings when schools are strapped for cash. Schools raise funds for subscriptions through events such as jum-

The four-month inquiry involved a forensic audit of NCPTA accounts and an examination of the employment records and appointment of the three officers, who said they had resigned as trustees by the time they took up their posts. Press officer Margaret Morrissey, a Dorset publican and former Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate, was appointed as a salaried employee five years ago after first working for the charity while a trustee for a £500 annual honourarium.

Andrew Smetham, head of the Purbeck School in Wareham, Dorset, was also a trustee at the time of his appointment as treasurer five years ago. Administrator Belinda Yaxley, the third employee called on still a trustee.

When launching the investigation, the Charity Commission told the NCPTA it had "particular concern" over the employment of former trustees and over the charity's management and financial controls.

At a four-hour meeting with trustees on 21 March, the commission's representatives advised the NCPTA to seek legal advice on whether the three officers had benefited from their trusteeship, whether they should

stay in their posts and whether they should

be asked to repay money.

The investigators said they were also concerned over the way trustees Sean Rogers and Sandi Marshall had been removed, describing the procedure as a "kangaroo

The Charity Commission last night declined to comment on the letter and said that details of the inquiry remained confi-

Mrs Morrissey said she and her two fellow part-time officers admitted they had been trustees at the time of applying and being interviewed for their jobs, but said they were no longer trustees by the time they took up their posts.

She insisted she would not be stepping down, and added: "If I believed it was in the best interests of any parent, child or teacher in this country that I walked away from this organisation I would go, but I do

Current NCPTA chairman Judith Wood said the charity had "taken action on the letter", which was received last week. It was not certain that the recommendations contained within it would be included in the commission's final published report, she

Peter Williams, of solicitors Winck-TA, confirmed a letter had been received by the charity. The NCPTA had asked the commission for more time to allow it to complete its own investigation and seek legal advice, he said. Though the action recommended in the letter was still a possibility, it was "something which has been overcome, even if it is only in the short

The three officers have each been interviewed by the charity's lawyers.

Labour admits to party funds scam



The Labour Party admitted yesterday that new MPs had been asked to make a "contribution" of £5,000 towards the cost of party agents, and that "over-eager" officials had suggested it might paid - illegally - from Commons expenses.

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The initial suggestion that Labour MPs should donate £5,000 a year towards political agents' salaries was made at an official briefing meeting for all 178 new Labour MPs, held at Westminster's Queen Elizabeth Two

centre on 13 May.

That was followed up by calls to MPs from their regional party offices, in which it was spelled out that the money should be paid from the taxfree £47,568 office costs allowance -

financed by the taxpayer. None of the potential victims was willing to be identified by The Independent - there is a general fear of the party machine - but an MP who was targeted said yesterday: "It was mad;

I couldn't believe it." Another said: "There was no question of a misunderstanding. They were demanding money with men-aces." Yet another said: "I was told it wouldn't cost me anything: it could

come out of the allowance. The allowance is paid on the strict understanding that it is used for parliamentary purposes, and use of the allowance for political or personal purposes is forbidden. On that basis, the Inland Revenue does not tax it as income; improper use would be a criminal offence

But Clive Soley, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, told The Independent that an MP had complained to him about the demand and the matter would be investigated.

"Basically, the MP was asked to give money for party services and I said, 'Is it out of your salary?' and he said it was out of allowances. I then asked around and it was then that I beard the Chief Whip had heard of it. I can-

Earlier, Mr Soley had told BBC Radio 4 that he was certain there had been a "misunderstanding". However, a party spokesman said:

not believe that this has happened."

"If under any circumstances any-thing was said over-eagerly, we can guarantee this will be put right. Nothing has happened as yet and now we have been alerted to it by The Independent, we can guarantee nothing will happen.'

That meant that no money had been paid so far, and the project had been killed by its exposure in yesterday's Independent.

The existing practice for Labour MPs is that they are asked to volunteer a "precept" of 1 per cent of salary, £438 a year, towards the costs of the national Labour Party, with another 1 per cent levy for their regional

But the idea that the new MPs might contribute more than five times that total levy, financed by the taxpayer, left many Labour MPs flab-

rgasted and disgusted. One new MP said: "I was certainapproached by my regional party. This is mappropriate. If people choose to make personal donations to the party, that's up to them. But putting pressure on people, especially those who cannot afford it, who are perhaps maintaining families and kids at university, god knows what else, £5,000

would be an embarrassment."
A senior MP said last night: "The trouble with these people is that they cannot recognise sleaze when it's on

'contribution' would be investigated Woman, 54, becomes oldest test-tube mother

Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

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Another record in fertility treatment was broken vesterday with the disclosure that a woman aged 54 has given burth to twins following in vitro fertilisation.

Eleanor Armstrong-Periman cheated nature by giving birth to the twins at University College Hospital, London, yesterday to become Britain's old-

est mother of a test-tube baby.

Mrs Armstrong-Perlman, who is married to a lecturer at the London School of Economics, exceeds by two years the previous record-holder,

No upper age limit is set for fertil-Dorrell backs Clarke

were well.

Pauline Lyon, who gave birth to a ity treatment by the Human Fertilisa-daughter in April 1995 at the age of the age of the control of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which licenses IVF clinics, but doctors are required to take it into account under the Both women were treated by Proauthority's code of practice, along fessor Ian Craft of the London Gywith other factors affecting the welfare naecology and Fertility Centre in of the child, in considering the suit-Harley Street, who has argued strongly that older women should not be ability of patients. barred from fertility treatment. Many

A spokesman said there were no plans to impose an upper age limit but of his colleagues disagree and most ferthe authority would listen to arguments tility clinics operate an age bar between if they were put to it. "We are not aware 45 and 50 because of the risk that ageof any great concern in this area at the ing parents may not be able to cope. moment. No provision of the 1990 act A spokesman for University College or the code of practice has been con-Hospital said both mother and twins travened in this case."

Latest figures from the authority

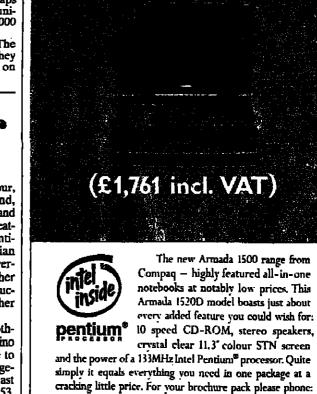
show that out of almost 25,000 cycles of treatment with IVF given to women in 1994, 338 were to women over 45, which resulted in 41 births. The main bar to post-menopausal motherhood is the age of the egg. With donated eggs from a twenty-something, older women can carry the developing foetus and give birth into their sixties.

The oldest woman in Britain to undergo fertility treatment is Alison Cobb, who was treated three years ago at a clinic in Nottingham at the age of 59. However, her treatment was stopped after the birth of twins to another 59-year-old in Italy was greeted with outrage.

Mrs Cobb, a grandmother of four, wanted a child for her husband. Stephen, who is 14 years her junior and is childless. She went to Rome for treatment from Professor Severino Antinori, the controversial Italian gynaecologist who has treated several post-menopausal women, but her three attempts at IVF were unsuccessful and she has now pinned her hopes on surrogacy.

The world's oldest test-tube mother is Arceli Keh, a 63-year-old Filipino American who lied about her age to get treatment at a clinic in Los Angeles. She gave birth to a daughter last month after telling doctors she was 53.

Games, .22 Graduate Plus 12 Listings20,21 TV & Radio23,24



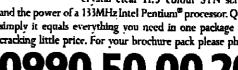
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Kenneth Clarke's campaign for the Tory leadership yesterday won momentum when Stephen Dorrell announced he was standing down to support Mr Clarke. Page 7

THE BROADSHEET Comment 19-21 Foreign News . . .12-17

Law Report18 Business & City 22-24 Leading Articles . . . 19 Letters 19 Obituaries18 Shares25

EDUCATION + Arts Reviews19 Crossword22 Dilemmas11

significant shorts

Blair's hectic schedule set to go supersonic

A cut-price British Airways Concorde flight has been offered for Tony Blair's first official visit to the United States later this month. "Plans to use Concorde are being actively investigated," the Prime Minister's office said. BA have offered Concorde for the same price as a normal 767 jet. "There is no extra cost on this," the spokesman added.

Mr Blair and his entourage would take Concorde to Denver, Colorado, for a two-day G7 summit of the world's leading industrial nations, then to New York for a United Nations summit, before coming home. A BA spokesman said: "We would be only too delighted to assist where we possibly can and save the Prime Minister's party travel time by using our supersonic flagship." Scottish nationalists, however, denounced the move as a "massive waste of taxpayers' money". Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said: "Power seems to have gone to Blair's head."

GCHQ to move house

The nerve centre of the Government's communications operation, GCHQ, is to move to a new site, it was announced yesterday. Private-sector firms are being asked to put forward proposals for the massive scheme to relocate GCHQ from its current Fifties-built base at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, to a new purpose-built complex. Officials say the present base is not equipped to deal with advances in technology, and, with the end of the Cold War, the department could be housed on a smaller site. A GCHQ spokesman said yesterday that it was hoped the new base would be built in the Cheltenham area, where it employs 5,000 people on two separate sites.

Jury selected for footballers' retrial



A jury of eight men and four women was yesterday selected to hear the retrial of three soccer stars who face match-fixing allegations.

The jury will be sworn in at Winchester Crown Court where footballers Bruce Grobbelaar, 39, the former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper, seen here arriving at court; John Fashanu, 34, the former Aston Villa and Wimbledon striker, and Hans Segers, 35, the ex-Wimbledon keeper, along with the Malaysian businessman, Heng Suan Lim, are accused of conspiracy to give and accept corrupt payments. The four defendants deny the allegations.

Treetop protesters brought to earth

The three-week operation to clear the site of Manchester airport's planned second runway is almost complete following the removal of the remaining environmental protesters holding out in treetop camps. Only eight activists remain, holed up in tunnels in Flywood camp; a lone female protester called Debbie is "locked on" in one tunnel, attached by both arms to tubes concreted into the wall. Police estimated yesterday that it would take another three or four days to remove them from the site in the Bollin Valley, near Styal, Cheshire. The Under Sheriff of Cheshire, Randall Hibbert, said the eviction process was ahead of schedule.

M&S adds fizz to champagne wars

Another cork was popped yesterday in the cut-price champagne wars with the launch of a £9.99-a-bottle promotion by Marks

As a play on the three-digit price tag, the supermarket is billing the offer on Oudinot champagne – down from £12.99 – as the launch of the "Fifth Emergency Service" to quench thirst for the summer. It follows a move by the Co-op to sell Moët & Chandon champagne at £14.99 a bottle instead of at the wine's more usual price of £19.99. M&S said it was hoping the promotion would encourage its British customers to drink as much fizz as their French counterparts. The £9.99 offer will run for six weeks.

Open University falls at last fence

The all-powerful Open University team suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Magdalen College, Oxford, last night in the final of the latest series of University Challenge. Many viewers expected the OU team to triumph after they

annihilated two previous sides, notching up the highest winning margin in the programme's 27-year history. But they were beaten in the final by 250 points to 195 by a far younger quartet of English maths and history students. It was a disappointing end for the OU's most experienced panellist, mature student Ida Staples, 72, who helped the team hammer Charing Cross and Westminster School 415-65 (the record) in the semi-final, after out-pointing Swansea 395-85 in the first round.

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Anne Michaels: 'Astonishing first novel' (Photograph: David Laurence)

Canadian's first novel wins top prize for women's fiction

richest literary prize, the £30,000 Orange Prize for Fiction with her first novel, Fugitive Pieces. She was a surprise winner, beating celebrated novelists such as Margaret Atwood and E Annie Proub.

The prize, which is only open to women in a bid to promote women's writing, attracted 60 per cent of its entries from North American writers; provoking chairman of the judges, author and critic Lisa Jardine to comment on "the confidence and maturity of north

American writing.

Ms Michaels' book tells the interlocking stories of two men whose lives have been transformed by war. Liz Calder, head of Bloomsbury Publishers, described the book as "the most astonishing first novel I have read in over 20 years of publishing fiction ... she has created a work of literature which will undoubtedly live forever in the minds of all who read it".

Ms Michaels, who has also written two collections of poetry, beat a shortlist that included: Margaret At-wood (Alias Grace), which narrowly missed out on win-ning the Booker Prize; Deirdre Madden (One by One in the Darkness); Jane Mendelsohn (I Was Amelia

Canadian writer Anne Michaels last night won Britain's Earhart); E. Annie Proub (Accordion Crimes) and Manda Scott (Hen's Teeth).

British poet, novelist and playwright, Glyn Maxwell,

dubbed by one critic the Shakespeare of the Suburbs, has won a top American literary prize. Maxwell, 35, has won the EM Forster Award, established from the American rights and royalties of Forster's posthumous novel Maurice, and awarded by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Past winners of the £9,500 award include Margaret Drabble, Seamus Heaney and Julan Barnes

Maxwell, who has written three volumes of poetry, two plays and a novel, writes work that is often humorous, dealing with the idiosyncrasies of life in middle England. He says he will use his prize money to travel in America. Speaking of his method of writing in a recent interview, he said: "I write verse on a comouter if I can find one. I write plays by hand, on four colours of paper, on a desk in a house in the Pyrenees. I write in the day, stone-cold sober, empty of thought, music, the urge. The act of writing alters the passage of time, hurrles it, or halts it. That's a glimpse of Heaven. Mine anyway." David Lister

Editor accused of inciting anglers to kill A former editor of the Angling Times, the fisherman's bible, has

been charged with incitement to kill wild birds following an article supporting the illegal culling of cormorants.

In a rare move, Cambridgeshire police decided to charge Keith Higginbottom with two offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. He has been summonsed to appear at Peterborough agistrates Court on 11 July.

The prosecution follows publication in the weekly newspaper last December of a front-page photograph showing a masked gunman on a riverbank with four dead cormorants at his feet. The caption read: "This is the picture every angler wants to see the man, the gun and the commorants." The birds are detested by anglers because they have voracious appetites and are blamed for depleting fish stocks.

The accompanying article described an underground campaign by fishery owners to cull large numbers of cormorants, a protected species. Mr Higginbottom was quoted as saying that "the Angling Times does not condemn them for it". Cambridgeshire police said yesterday that Mr Higginbottom.



who left the newspaper last month, had been charged under two sections of the Act that prohibit the killing of protected

birds without a licence. The Angling Times, which has campaigned for cormorants to be removed from the protected species list, said it still supported the view that they inflicted major ecological damage on fish stocks and steps were needed to control their numbers. "We have never urged the public to take the law into its own hands, but have strongly campaigned to have the law changed to that appropriate measures can be taken," it said. It added that the case would be "vigorously defended",

■ It emerged yesterday that a flock of cormorants has taken thousands of carp from a lake at Sydmonton Court, the estate on the Hampshire-Berkshire border owned by Lord Lloyd-Webber.

Blair pledge to mother of race murder victim

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is to meet the mother of Stephen Lawrence, the murdered black teenager, to reassure her that the Government will step up efforts to bring his killers to justice. Tony Blair announced the

meeting with Doreen Lawrence yesterday in response to reminders that five men accused by the Daily Mail of killing Stephen have done nothing to clear their names.

Stephen, an A-level student, was stabbed to death in a racist attack in Eltham, south-east London, in 1993. Police efforts to track down his killers were styrnled by a wall of silence which remained in place throughout an inquest in February when five white men refused to answer questions. After the jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing, the Mail published pictures of the men headlined "Murderers" and daring them to sue.

Yesterday, David Winnick MP asked Mr Blair: "When is justice and the rule of law going to prevail in this case? The Prime Minister replied that he sympathised with the frustration many people felt, and added: "We will do everything we can, within the rule of law, to rectify that injustice and the meeting with Mrs Lawrence is one part and one step in doing that."

TRANSPORT

Big rise in complaints about privatised rail firms

The number of complaints by passengers about four privatised rail companies rocketed in the first part of this year.

Criticisms of South West Trains increased by 160 per cent between January and March, during the time when the company scrapped up to 39 trains a day because of driver shortages. There were also big rises in complaints from Connex South Central

passengers (up 144 per cent) while Great Western complaints rose 100 per cent and West Anglia Great Northern by 80 per cent. The figures related to complaints received by the London Regional Passengers Committee, compared with the same period in 1996. Cancellations, punctuality and reliability and passenger information was the warm garges of concern increases of this information were the main causes of concern. "Increases of this magnitude are both worrying and unacceptable and we shall be discussing them with the companies themselves," said the committee's chairman Sir Alan Greengross. But he added that complaints for a number of other companies actually fell in the first part of the year. These were Chiltern, CrossCountry, Great Eastern, LTS Rail, North London Railways, ScotRail and Eurostar.

TOURISM

Guide takes 'honest' look at Britain

Britain has some of the ugliest buildings in the world and is inhabited by unwashed people with strange acceuts, according to a

minanted by inwasted people with strange access, according to a new guide published yesterday.

Wales is seen as "England's unloved backyard", Coventry is "a dismal city" and Piccadilly Circus (below) is "finne-choked and uninspiring". The British "don't understand that a good shower is one of life's basic essentials", according to The Lonely Planet Travel Survival Guide to Britain (£14.99), but it adds that Britain "remains one of the most beautiful islands in the world". Minus points include "some of the grimmest and ugliest industrial and urban developments in the world", "virtually impenetrable" accents, and "woefully inadequate" plumbing.

The guide says it is prepared to list Britain's negative features

because there are so many positive ones. A spokeswoman explained:
"The guide gives an honest, independent account of what you can expect to find travelling around Britain. Last year, tourism to Britain increased by 17 per cent so we can't be that bad. In fact,

everyone feels welcome ■ The number of North Americans who visited Britain in March was up by 20 per cent on last year's figure, the Office for National Statistics

announced yesterday. The influx helped total overseas visitor numbers reach 1.92 million in March 1997 – a 1 per cent increase on 1996. During the first three months of 1997, the total number of overseas visitors has risen by 3 per cent to just over 5 million.



ENVIRONMENT

Water pollution trend reversed

The number of reported water pollution incidents in England Wales dropped for the first time in eight years last year, the Government's environment agency reports today. In 1996 there were 32,409 incidents reported, of which 20,158 were confirmed following investigation. That represents a 14 per cent drop on the 1995 figure for substantiated incidents. The agency, which came into being last year, said the fall was partly due to a lack of rain to wash pollutants into rivers, and also to its own campaigning work and tough policy on prosecuting offenders.

Water Pollution Incidents in England and Wales 1996; £26.

Health risks add to fear of flying

Heart attacks and other medical emergencies are killing more air passengers than plane crashes, figures from the United States Federal Aviation Administration suggest.

There were 14,000 medical emergencies each year on the nine

major US airlines which carry 65 per cent of all passengers flown by American carriers. Applied across all airlines in the US, this was equivalent to 15 emergencies a day, compared to two or three during the last study in 1986-1988. Overall, an estimated 350 passengers a year died on US airliners, compared with an average 118 passengers a year who died in air crashes on US soil since 1978.

The findings are reported in *New Scientist magazine*, which says: "While no one knows why the in-flight death rate has soared since 1988, there are a number of theories. Most of the deaths occur on long-haul flights, and the number of passengers taking these has doubled in the past decade. Additionally, more elderly people are now flying. Some doctors speculate that the exertion of carrying heavy baggage before a flight, plus the excitement of holiday travel, may increase the risk of heart failure."

SOCIETY

TRAVEL

Holiday misery for battered children

School holidays mean nothing but misery for hundreds of children who become victims of violence in their homes, the NSPCC claimed yesterday. Launching its Children's Day, the charity said attacks double in the summer months when children are at home, rising by 50 per cent last year during June, July and August. There were an average of 246 reported incidents a month compared to 164 a month for the rest of the year. The charity said it believed calls to its hotline increased in the summer "due to a combination of reasons, including increased stress for parents and carers".



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of

the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

Eventually we won't have any competitors.

When the last piece of ore has been mined and the last drop of

metal recycled, one building material will still be growing strong.

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Top mano

people learn to use their cars less and

Yesterday, Gavin Strang, the min-

ister for transport, launched a num-

her of schemes run by private

companies designed to get com-

muters into work without their cars.

names such as Boots, Nat West bank and the Royal Mail are committed to implementing green commuter

plans - packages of measures which

will reduce the number of car jour-

neys to work - and developing a tar-

for interest-free loans for employees

to buy hikes, the introduction of shuttle buses for staff and increased car

Staff at the Body Shop's headquarters in Littlehampton in Sussex

can "hitch" lifts with colleagues by

watching an electronic bulletin board

which describes the journeys of all

employees travelling by car. Hewlett-Packard, the computer

company, has already adopted tar-

gets for its staff in Bristol Under the

company's measures, 20 per cent of

employees should be cycling into

work. 7 per cent will use public trans-

port and 70 per cent should be car-

Transport 2000, the transport think-

tank which persuaded ministers and

big business to link up to tackle con-

gestion, said: "We are looking to the

new Government not just to support

and approve of green commuting but

Life in !

with much higher traffic flows;

to make it happen.

Stephen Joseph, the director of

Among the suggestions are plans

get for reducing car use.

Seven firms, including household

public transport more.

rail firms

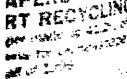
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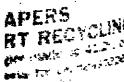
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reversed







ittered children

Ministers drive through vision for green commuting as companies support bike loans, buses and car sharing Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent motorist could be told to remove the car from the road and fined. It was never meant to be a lengthy Motoring organisations welcomed relationship, but the public's love afthe new initiatives. "Our surveys have fair with the motor car has hit the shown that 10 per cent of vehicles rocks. The reason for the falling out cause 50 per cent of the pollution and is the Government's insistence that

if we can target these cars then the Government will make a real difference," said Edmund King, a spokesman for the RAC. This week has seen a spate of announcements from the transport

Two wheels good, four wheels bad

team under the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, whom many had considered stifled by the dead hand of strict Treasury spending

However the department has crackled into life. Earlier this week, Dr Strang announced a review of all speed limits, saying that "speed contributes to a third of all road accidents". Last month, Glenda Jackson, a transport minister, said the Government would welcome innovative local authority plans to tackle

Private firms warned that the Government needed to spend more to improve public transport before any sizeable shift from cars could take place. David Edmonds, a director with Nat West, said: "There has to be a reason for people to be persuaded to use their cars less."

The problem for the department is the lack of cash to support measures to reduce traffic. One cash cow yet to be milked is the company car which, officials believe, could be used to raise cash. There are more than 900,000 drivers who receive free fuel tax-free as a company perk. This, ministers believe, not only encourages more driving but could provide cash for public transport schemes.

place within a year and will be Another rich seam not yet mined developed by seven local authorities, is company car parking. Recent studies have shown that nearly half of all parking in urban areas is provided free to drivers of company cars. perience of other countries is that risk having their vehicles taken off breaking the law on emissions, the Four out of five cars coming into London in the hours of peak congestion are company-owned. A flatrate £500 tax on private, non-residential parking places would raise £1.5bn. If free company parking were also treated as a taxable benefit, another £500m a year could

be raised from employees. But the days of the company car already look numbered. Merrill Lynch, one of the largest City banks,



'Top mandarin is victim of Prescott's super ministry

Randeep Ramesh and Christian Wolmar

The top civil servant at the Department of Transport is to leave his job after more than a quarter of century of public ser-

Sir Patrick Brown, the Permanent Secretary on a salary in excess of £100,000, is understood to be going after minis-ters decided that the new "super-ministry" run by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister - encompassing transport and environment - only re-

quired one top manager. The new position is likely to be filled by Andrew Turnbull, Permanent Secretary at the Department of the Environment and once tipped to succeed Cabinet Secretary Sir

There had been much speculation that Sir Patrick, 57,

Steve Boggan

Somebody, somewhere in the

Home Office must have taken it

literally when they were told to

nab the brains of the operation.

it might have been 30 years

since Ronnie Kray instilled fear

among his gangland rivals on

the mean streets of east London

but when he died from a heart

attack, aged 61, those brains

were secretly removed and tak-

en to a laboratory in Oxford.

the Kray twin's grev matter in

1995 have been common cur-

rency in the Sunday tabloids for

more than a year but they were

confirmed by a tearful Charlie

Kray yesterday during his de-

fence against charges that he was

involved in a £39m cocaine ring.

Woolwich Crown Court was

Rumours of the removal of

the new government. Acknowledged as a privatisation wizard, Sir Patrick had a reputation for handling difficult state sales. Despite opposition from inside government and the public, he deregulated the bus-es, sold off the water industry during his brief stay at the De-

partment of the Environment and then privatised British Rail. However, with Labour shifting away from the "dogmatic" privatisation policies of the past, many observers considered that his skills would not be best utilised in the new gov-

Seen as the ultimate insider, he was in fact one of the few top civil servants who did not go to public school or attend an-Oxbridge college. Sir Patrickwas also not a career civil servant - spending his earlier life as a successful management

Fields and Robert Gould, have

admitted offering to supply

£39m of cocaine and providing

2kg of the drug but Mr Kray, 70,

spiracy to flood the streets with

Kelsey-Fry, prosecuting, alleged

from the plan, but the "criminals"

However, Mr Kray insists

that he never intended to sup-

ply any cocaine and was simply

"stringing along" his contacts in

berg QC, Mr Kray said Home

undercover police officers.

against them.

denies being involved.

Kray was

laid to rest

Mr Prescott, had in the past made it clear that Sir Patrick would have to fit into his regime. There had been earlier speculation that Sir Patrick would be an early casualty of any Whitehall shake-up but relations between the two men was said to be "cordial and ex-

Gridlock: A tax on free car parks may be used to cut city congestion

"green" plans work. "In the Nether- the roads under radical plans to cut

pollution.

The scheme, which should be in

will see cars suspected of exceeding

legal pollution limits pulled over by police. If a vehicle is found to be

lands, around 15 per cent of com-

panies now have commuter plans,

and the Dutch ministry reports a re-

duction in car kilometres at these companies of around 14 per cent."

Panel head

■ In 1904 during the crush period the average speed for horse drawn omnibuses and cabs

■ In 1936 the average speed on the North Circular was 23.6mph; the modern speed is 23.1mph

■ Traffic speeds in central London have been virtually stable over the past 100 years with a

■ In 1904 during "crush hours" motor omnibuses and cabs averaged 8mph;

■ Horse drawn vehicles still accounted for 5 per cent of all traffic in 1937;

was 3.5-6mph; in the "slack hours" the average speed was 7-8mph

■ Today the average speed in central London is 10mph.

make it happen."

Dr Strang also announced that motorists will face heavy fines and

tremely professional". Some industry observers were surprised with the ease that the permanent secretary had been able to glide effortlessly between Conservative and Labour ministers - but others point out that Sir Patrick had previously worked under

the Callaghan administration. Sir Patrick was no stranger to controversy. In the Eighties he chaired a committee representing members of the First Division Association - the top civil servant's trade union - and produced a discussion paper

would find life difficult under consultant. His new master, which stated: "There is evidence that the traditional evenhandedness of very senior officials is being undermined. with some of them arguing privately as well as publicly that there is no conceivable alternative to certain policies."

In 1995, Sir Patrick's department rejected criticism by the Parliamentary Ombudsman for failing to offer special compensation to householders blighted by numerous options for the high-speed Channel tunnel rail link. Sir Patrick later appeared in front of a parliamentary committee of MPs, who also criticised the depart-

Last night, a spokesman for the Department of Transport denied that there would be any immediate change adding that "Sir Patrick and the Deputy Prime Minister get on very



Gangland trio: From left, Ronnie, Charlie and Reggie in 1965

The Crown has claimed that Mr Kray was involved in a con-Office pathologists had removed cocaine over two years. John Ronnie Kray's brain for experimentation and had not told his that Mr Kray stood to gain £8m widow, Kate, even when his body was buried. with whom he was dealing were

"Áfter he died, a few months later I think, my brother found out before I did that they had he was dead, for an experithe hope of perpetrating a sting ment," said Mr Kray, "Everyone was ringing up about it and was very upset about it ... Fmally, During questioning by his de-fence counsel, Jonathan Goldthey returned the brain in a casket and it was reburied." Last year, under the headline

"The great brain robbery", the News of the World revealed details of the removal of Ronnie Kray's brain. Kate Kray told the newspaper she was furious. "After 27 years locked up I thought death had finally freed Ronnie," she said. "But now I'm outraged removed Ronnie's brain, after to learn there's part of him still imprisoned in a jar with a little paper label. It's disgusting ... You'd think someone could have consulted with me or said. 'Listen Kate, OK if we take Ronnie's brain for a bit?" Charlie Kray's trial continues



Aitken's reputation 'butchered' by claims of pimping for Arabs

Kim Sengupta

The personal, political and professional reputation of the former Tory minister Jonathan Aitken was "butchered" by allegations of pimping for Arabs and illegal arms trading, the High Court heard yesterday.

Mr Aitken, formerly De-

fence Procurement Minister and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was the victim of a national newspaper and a television company collaborating to mount "a sustained attack on his good name, his honour, and his integrity", his counsel, Charles Gray QC told the court.

The allegations printed in the Guardian in 1995 and broadcast on Granada television's World in Action programme were "totally false and ludicrous," said Mr Gray. Mr Aitken is claiming libel damages.

The articles and the documentary had claimed Mr Aitken provided prostitutes for highly-placed Saudis.
Mr Gray stated they inferred

that "in effect, Mr Aitken had placed himself in a position where he was in the pocket of the Saudi Royal Family.

"He had become so financially dependent on the Saudi royals that the point had been reached where he had lost his independence, which is essential to the proper discharge of his responsibilities as an MP and Minister of the Crown.

*Over a considerable period of time, he deliberately concealed from his own constituents in Thanet, from the electorate in general, and the company called Future Manpublic at large, the connection agement Services Ltd.

ily." Mr Gray said it had been further claimed that at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, Mr Aitken had offered to help a company called Astra Holdings Ltd sell arms to both sides, and as a non-executive director of another company, BMARC to

sell naval cannons to Iran. Mr Aitken was accused of having asked employees of a health hydro on two separate occasions 15 years ago to procure prostitutes for Arab clients who were staying there.

"That is an accusation of pimping for Arabs on two sep-

The allegations of procuring call-girls reached the ears of John Major. He was told that Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods and one of the sources for the Guardian and Granada programme, was in possession of a file on Mr Aitken with proof that he was "whoring" for the Saudis and owned two model agencies which provided prostitutes.

Mr Al Fayed was also the owner of a luxury hotel in Paris, the Ritz, where the television company and newspaper alleged Mr Aitken attended a clandestine business meeting and then lied about who had paid his hotel bill.

Mr Gray said: "The gravest charge is that he misconducted himself as a minister in flagrant defiance of the rules governing ministerial conduct and while Minister of Defence Procurement, he conducted private business deals with an arms



"The defendants Guardian and Granada television] say that on separate occasions, while a Minister of the Crown, he attended clandestine business meetings in the Ritz Hotel, Paris ... and there was doubt about who paid his bill." The court was told that oth-

er claims pursued by the defendants had been abandoned in the last 36 hours. Mr Gray said: "One of the most offensive allegations is that Mr Aitken nearly 20 years ago interviewed young women notionally as air hostesses, but in fact to act as prostitutes for Arabs.

"Another ludicrous allegation which had been abandoned was that Mr Aitken had been present on occasions at the house of a Saudi prince in Hampstead, north-west London, in the company of prostitutes." Mr Gray said many of the allegations stemmed from

Mr Al Fayed. Others came from Valerie Scott, a former secretary of Mr Aitken and from Robin Kirk and Jo Lambert. former employees of his at the health hydro, Inglewood, in Berkshire. Mr Aitken is expected to give evidence today. The case continues.

Ministers pledge to boost union relations

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

Cabinet left-wingers launched a new era of co-operation with trade unions yesterday and pledged that the Government would press ahead with controversial legislation on union recognition.

In the first speech by a senior minister to a union annual con-ference since the election, David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, assured GMB general union conference delegates in Brighton that there would be a White Paper on employees' rights in the autumn.

In London, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, met leaders of 1.5 million public sector workers to set out a timetable for the abolition of compulsory competitive ten-dering in local authorities. Meanwhile, Margaret Beck-

ett. President of the Board of Trade, made clear that there would be union representation on working groups set up to advise on competitiveness. One of the central figures in

the Labour project, the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, will meet TUC representatives today to discuss his forthcoming Budget on 2 July.

The Government will be anxious to characterise this flurry of activity as evidence of a new European style of social partnership, to which employers will contribute equally, rather than a return to "beer and sandwiches". However, the support of

Messrs Prescott, Beckett and Blunkett will be seen by trade unions as welcome evidence that the "soft left" members of the Cabinet have not forgotten their roots. Trade unionism was in clear need of a boost yesterday after official figures showed that membership had shrunk sharply. According to the Labour Force Survey, there were 2 million union members last year, compared with almost 9 million

At a press conference in Brighton, Mr Blunkett went some way to allaying the private fears of union leaders that the Government might quietly ditch its manifesto commitment to a law on union recognition. He said the proposal would be part of the White Paper to be issued in the autumn, but made clear there would be a lengthy period of consultation, and indicated there may be no legislation until the 1998-99 parliamentary

In his speech to delegates, which received a standing ovation, he said that "God willing" there would be legislation to inhittel'

bettel'...

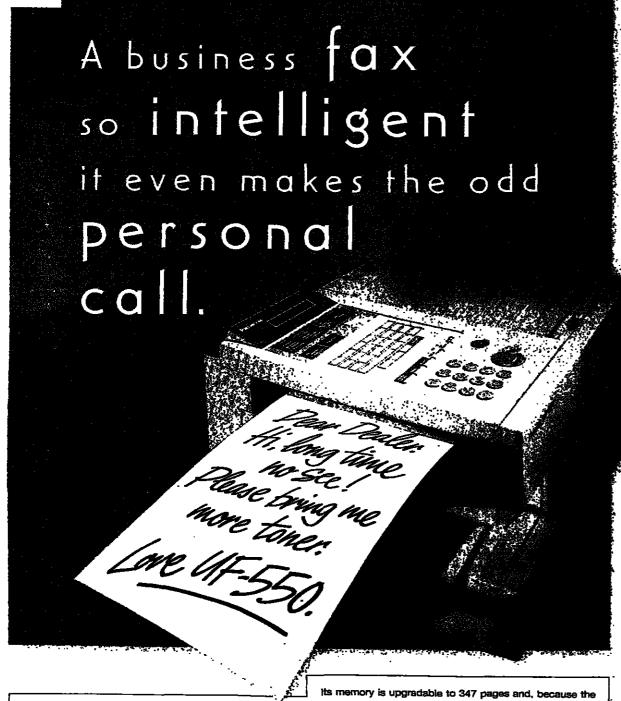
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David Blunkett: Promised statutory minimum wage

troduce a statutory national minimum wage by this time next year. He added that there was a new beginning for Britain with "new government and new unionism", but emphasised that progress could not be made overnight. "You remember and I remember that impossible demands ... led only to tears, recrimination and frustration." He expected unions to be a "critical friend" of the Government and that ministers would reciprocate.

A spokesman for the GMB welcomed Mr Blunkett's remarks and said the Government had done more for working people in just over four weeks than the last government had achieved in 18 years.

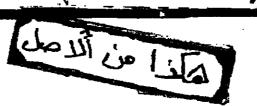


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The second secon

Association of the second seco

Bonn denies threat to Eurofighter plan **Christopher Bellamy** Defence Correspondent inre Karacs stressed that Germany must make its mind up about start-

Gernany yesterday reiterated its ing production of the warplane, as time is running out if the first support for the Eurofighter planes are to be delivered on project after speculation that it time in 2001. George Robertson, Secre-have left Mr Rühe about 2bn tary of State for Defence, yesterday met his German opposite number. Volker Rühe,

(£700m) German marks short of this year's entry fee. "Eurofighter is a very important pro-ject for Europe," he said

wants Germany to commit itself to its part in building the jet. He colleague that Bonn was "entirely behind the project",

If Germany were to pull out of the four-nation programme it will not kill it, but it will mean that the other three partners -Britain, Italy and Spain - will have to spend more, which will be difficult to justify. RAF and industry sources yesterday said whatever happened, it was "unthinkable" that the aircraft would not be built.

Mr Rühe said Germany would decide on 11 July whether to order 180 of the new

generation of jets.

Even if the German government approved the investment, it could still be thwarted in parliament. The opposition Social Democrats are bitterly divided over such a costly project when welfare spending is being cut to meet the Maastricht criteria.

However, the Social Democrat defence spokesman, Walwill crumble if the government finds savings elsewhere.

"I think it will go ahead," Mr Kolbow said. "They will have a solution to finance this air-The matter is gaining ur-

gency, because until now private companies have had to carry the burden of development costs. Dasa, the German contractor, upped the stakes yesterday by of the Eurofighter consortium in Germany, Aloysius Rauen, said the delay was endangering workers at its production plants. "If the political decision on Eurofighter is further delayed, the industry must start phasing

out production," he said. In a parliamentary answer on Monday, Mr Robertson said 6,000 jobs already depend on Eurofighter in Britain, and

ter Kolbow, indicated yesterday threatening to pull out if Bonn that resistance to Eurofighter continues to vacillate. The head at the peak of production. at the peak of production. Britain plans to purchase 232 of the jets, at the cost of £42bn. Eurofighter is expected to

provide between 250,000 and 300,000 jobs across Europe. The first seven development

models of the top-of-the range. multi-role aircraft are flying, and the RAF is expecting its first Eurofighters to be operational in 2002. "The only hold-up now is tooling up the factories to

numbers, one senior RAF officer said.

Eurofighter appears exempt from the new Government's Defence Review announced last week, like the Trident nuclear deterrent. Although Mr Robertson said the review would look afresh at Britain's defence needs, the MoD said the Government was sticking to its pre-election pledge to buy 230 Eurofighters.

Why a crisp can make bitter better...

in Bonn, to stress that Britain

Charles Arthur Science Editor

might pull out.

Would you like a packet of crisps with your pint of bitter?

The answer is probably "yes", suggest researchers; because the salt in the crisps masks the bitter flavour and brings out the

sweet tastes in the beer.
Although people usually think of salt as a flavour enhancer, new research by a team of American scientists suggests that it actually functions as a flavour "filter" on food, selectively enhancing and suppressing various tastes.

The result could explain earlier, puzzling results from the Eighties, which seemed to find that adding salt had little effect on other flavours - despite the fact that various cultures have used it as a condiment for thousands of years.

It could also point towards the reason why "low-sodium" foods, which are increasingly popular in the United States, as dietary salt is thought to contribute to high blood pressure, do not sell well; the absence of the chemical makes them taste flat.

lin and Gareth Beauchamp at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia, provided water-based mixtures of urea, a bitter-tasting chemical, sugar and sodium accetate, a mild-tasting salt chemical. The volunteers were asked to rate the drinks for their saltiness, sweetness and bitterness. Writing today in the science journal

The tests on 21 volunteers by Paul Bres- Thirsty work: A beer-drinker eating crisps in an east-London pub - scientists say the salt on the snack makes bitter taste better Photograph: John Lawrence Nature, the scientists say: 'As predicted, the water, the mixture was judged sweet-there was a selective suppression of the er than if the sait was not in there, they

there was a selective suppression of the taste components by sodium acetate. The bitterness of urea was suppressed much more by the salt than was the sweetness

added.

The desire for sodium chloride [com-mon table salt] and other salts in foods as diverse as [often bitter] vegetables. Oily When all three chemicals were put into foods and meats may be due in part to their

ability to suppress unpleasant flavours," the researchers wrote. Other studies published earlier this year in the US showed that about a quarter of the population has a genetic combination which makes them very sensitive to bitter tastes. The use of salt would help to suppress this, especially of salt content.

in dark green vegetables such as broccoli,

which have very bitter tastes on their own. The researchers also suggest that companies making low-sodium foods should try to focus on blocking bitter tastes, instead of concentrating on the reduction

...and how a cuppa can put the lid on cancer

Drinking Chinese tea isn't just trendy – it might stop you getting cancer. But the good news does not extend to the traditional British cuppa, because its brewing process destroys the chemical that makes green tea

so beneficial, writes Charles Arthur. According to research, a chemical found in green tea but not black tea helps stop the growth of cancer cells. A single cup of green tea contains huge, yet nontoxic amounts of the chemical, one of a class known as cathechins, which slows or even stops an enzyme that cancer cells need to grow and spread. Although it is less effective in stopping cancer than medical drugs, the chemical, epigallocathechin-3 gallate, or EGCG, can be taken in much higher doses without making someone ill, and so could play an important role in fighting cancer.

Black tea does not confer the same advantages, because the browing process oxidises the cathechins, destroying their positive effects, says a team of US scientists. The work at the Medical College of Ohio and the University of Toledo is published today in the science journal Nature.

Tests found that it binds to an enzyme called urokinase, preventing the enzyme from functioning. Normally, cancer cells depend on the action of urokinase to split and grow. "Amiloride is administered in a maximum dose of 20mg per day, whereas a single cup of tea contains 150 mg [of] EGCG and some tea lovers consume up to 10 cups a day." they write. Such high levels "could reduce incidence of cancer in humans, or the size of cancers already formed".

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Brown's plan to boost jobs in EU

Colin Brown and Katherine Butler

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown. said yesterday that Britain would lead Europe by making the re-duction of unemployment the priority in proposals for welfare reforms and a job-creation plan to reduce Europe's 18-million job-

The Chancellor will raise the three-point action plan at a meeting of European finance ministers on Monday and Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, has already secured the approval of United States President Bill Clinton for putting it on the table of the G8

group of industrialised countries. The announcement came as the European Commission proposed new social chapter rules which would oblige British companies to set up councils to consult their workers on redundancies and strategic management decisions.

The move puts Brussels on a col-

lision course with the government in light of Mr Blair's stated opposition to social chapter laws which calls for a fast-track procedure so that the social chapter can be applied in Britain by the end of this threaten to burden British industry with added costs and red tape. Government reticence on the social chapter looks set to be further exposed within days when two other proposals reach crucial stages

on their way to the statute books. Tomorrow the commission will announce it is to start drafting a directive extending the pay and holiday entitlements of part time workers. And next Thursday ministers will be asked to sign up to a directive making it easier for employees to sue for discrimination on the grounds of sex.

Yesterday, the commission for-mally asked both sides of industry to deliver an opinion on the worker-consultation proposals amid mounting concern that Labour in government has little intention of matching its rhetoric on the social chapter with action. There is already resistance to

year. "All the messages we are get-ting from London suggest they are prepared to sign it but don't ac-tually want to apply it," one Eu-ropean Union official said. Britain's decision to make cut-

ting European unemployment the priority in its own presidency of the union next year will be seen as a further signal, after the French election, that the January 1999 start date for the single currency is likely to be delayed.

The Chancellor, who is pressing for unemployment to be one of the key tests of the progress towards a single currency, denied Conservative criticism that the decision to sign up to the social chap-ter and introduce the minimum wage would cost jobs and fly in the face of his job-creation campaign. "We support the employlabour market flexibility," he said.



Carried away: Police remove Greenpeace activists from outside the London headquarters of US oil company Conoco. Environmentalists occupied the firm's offices yesterday morning to protest against oil exploration in the Atlantic Ocean Comment, page 21 Photograph: PA

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THE LEADERS TACKLE BLAIR Major caught Blair out on the question of Scottish and Welsh devolution referendams: Blair had said that a Bill on devolu-tion would be published before the referendums were staged.

but more recently that voters' judgement would be informed by a white paper, not a Bill. Why had he changed his nind? Blair would not admit to doing so, simply saying that all relations points would be in the white paper. Verdict: Major wins A decision on monetary union will soon be made, and the choice, will probably be between relaxation of conditions, or delay, which would Blair choose? Ashdown pointed out that Maastricht allowed a degree of flexibility in the timetable - would the Gov-

emment push for this provision to be used? Blair said it was Verdict: Draw THE BACKBENCH ISSUES

THEMES OF THE DAY A possible 'entente cordiale' with France's Socialist victors (Denis MacShane,

•The West Lothian question (Stephen Day, C. Cheadle) E-Coli deaths in Scotland (Dennis Canavan, Lab. Falkirk Wast)

that Blair believed reducing tabour costs Ing labour costs, would not increase unemployment? Blair did not say.

David Wilshire Booth. They should "stop this arrogant stop "insuling the wives of politicians".

THE QUIP OF THE DAY Blair : Eurosceptic William Cash asked him to go to Amsterdam and renegotiate the Maastricht treaty. "as I have repeatedly asked of our previous Prime Minister". Major rolled his eyes. "I hope he does more good for me than he did for the Rt Hon Gentleman".

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION a supplementary about 30-plus class sizes in her constituence Because her question did not relate to the Earth Summit, the Speak

Rachel Squire (Lab. Durifermline W) asked Blair to confirm that he Eurofighter alicitaft was vital to Britain's defence needs, and ts importance should be made clear to the German Chancellor. Of course" said Blair, "she would know" that the Defence Sec-



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Major full's block on 5

Protect Protect



Clarke's coup as Dorrell joins the team

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Kenneth Clarke's campaign for the Tory leadership last night won momentum for the first ballot when Stephen Dorrell announced that he was standing down to support the former

Mr Clarke pulled off the coup without offering Mr Dor-rell the key job in a shadow cabinet as the deputy leader of the Conservative Party, leaving himself the option of offering the deputy role to his main rival from the centre, William Hague, in the final stages of the contest.

At their press conference in Westminster yesterday, Mr

Clarke and Mr Dorrell appeared on a platform together under the hurriedly arranged logo, "Uniting to win". But the right wing rejected their "unity" ticket, and warned that Mr Clarke would

split the party over Europe.

"It is impossible for Clarke to win except in the nightmare scenario that in the third ballot, it is Hague versus Clarke. The strength of feeling against Hague is so great that some might be persuaded even Clarke is better than Hague. The idea of Hague running the shadow cabinet is risible," a member of one of the opposing camps said.

Iain Duncan-Smith, a sup-porter of John Redwood, said that after trimming to the right

on Europe. Mr Dorrell was "coming home" to the pro-European wing of the Tory party. Mr Dorrell will be unable to

bring a "dowry" with him. His supporters, including David Faber, Peter Luff, Simon Burns, and Shaun Woodward, are expected to be split among the other camps. All the leadership candidates

paraded before the National Union of party workers at Conservative Central Office. The National Union will meet again on 9 June and decide on its own choice of leader, on the eve of the first ballot, which is restricted to MPs.

Mr Dorrell dropped out because it became clear he would



Joining forces: Kenneth Clarke and Stephen Dorrell yesterday announcing Mr Dorrell was dropping out of the race

trail a poor sixth in the first ballot. He said that Mr Clarke was the "biggest hitter" who could win. Mr Clarke's shift of policy on the single currency this week, calling for the January 1999

deadline to be delayed, made the the Tories would never win an sections of the electorate who move easier for Mr Dorrell. But Mr Clarke last night recore support and pursuing the 900,000 who backed the Referjected an appeal to the Eurosceptic right. Delivering the Butler lecture, Mr Clarke said

election by consolidating the ought to be Conservative but are most difficult to attract at the moment - particularly young. endum and UK Independence uncommitted voters under the Parties. "We need to aim at the age of 45," he said.

The Tory leadership also said it was scrapping the existing candidates list of more than 600

names. The new leader will or-

der a fresh list to be drawn up.

New blow to Howard, page 12

Major fury over block on 'gongs'

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

The Queen's Birthday Honours list was overshadowed last night by a row between John Major and Tony Blair over a list of Tory "gongs for the boys".

Mr Major was said to be "very annoyed Mr Blair had refused to submit to the Queen a list of political honours to Conservative MPs and party workers for services to the party.

Mr Blair's aides said last night Mr Major had left the list for Mr Blair when he vacated Downing Street after the election. "It was John Major's list but it was returned. It is not true to say that he blocked it. It was not a question of vetting it."
There was a second list of of-

ficial honours, which will form the basis of the Birthday Honours list. Sources close to Mr Blair said it would be "John Ma-

KITTOW hole

A STE BOOK to all indender.

in fed to

retract in The

jor's list". But in line with his re-fusal to propose political hon-ours, Mr Blair refused to submit

Mr Major is expected to renominations. He did. If any

The names on Mr Major's list of political honours are a secret, but may include knighthoods for such stalwarts as his party chair-

Mr Major's political honours. "He still has the Resignation Honours List. He can put who he likes in that," a source said.

ward Tory loyalists in the Resignation List, which will be published in July. Mr Major's spokeswoman said: "They say he didn't make any political blocking was done, it was by them." Ten former Cabinet ministers were given life peerages in a list announced in April in the election campaign. They included Kenneth Baker. Douglas Hurd and John Biffen.

man, Brian Mawhinney.

Leading article, page 19



Grey Head takes Protector to task

he time was the period shortly after the forces of Right and Prudence had triumphed in the long battle against the Dissolution and Corruption.

With the King dead, the new Lord Protector had shunned

appearing at Westminster, preferring in his impatience to meet instead with his Grand Council at Millbank and issue decrees against the baiting of bears, the hunting of foxes and dancing in public. But now he was to appear in the Chamber of the House of Commons, where all were assembled for Lord Protector's Question Time. Awaiting him sat the few, battered remnants of the Cavalier cause - hugely outnumbered by the victorious army of puritans and democrats. The chronicler, an eminent antiquarian, takes up

Thus, to acclaime from his own side – attired in his spotted tie of office – he entered into the Chamber, taking his place next to Bulstrode Prescott and not far from Mr Secretary Strawe and Mr Chancellor Browne. And, though he

retary Strawe and Mr Chancellor Browne. And, though he loved not the bearpit, yet his face bore smiles, and he condescended to bow from the hippe most prettily.

Then called Madam Speaker Boothroyd for questioners, recommending to the Lord Protector that he first address himself to the petition made by Cynog Dafis, the Welsh Digger from Ceredigion, concerning the Earthe Summit in Naw York

Yea,' said the Protector, 'for all thinges are made new, and we shall support the new forest convention, and younge people shall join Youth Task Forces and plant trees and not offend their neighbours with midnight carousal.

Hardly had this vision of the New Jerusalem been

Hardly had this vision of the New Jerusalem been conjured, than took place a strange occurrence that affrighted many. For who should appear but the old, dead king, his grey, hoary head tucked under his arm, and moaning thus. 'Dissimulation! For had not the Protector told the House that no referendum would happen in Caladonia save that the normalize had seen the Bill before Caledonia, save that the populace had seen the Bill before-hand? But now the Grand Council are saying that onlie the White Paper will be published. So is there not some kind of

Those around him remarked that he spoke better with his head off than when it was attached. For now was the Lord nead on than when it was attached. For how was the Lord Protector discomfited; maybe (he bethought himself) he had indeed fallen into error, though if t were, t were a small mat-

ter. The position has always been clear! ter. The position has always occur again.

The grey head smiled, more animated than ever it had been in life, which amazed all that did see it. "The right honourable in life, which amazed all that did see it." gentleman is both wriggling and waffling," it said. "So whye

gentleman is both wrigging and warning, it said. "So whye does he not just allow his error?"

Lusty Cavaliers were now shouting divers insultes such as "wriggler!" "more ale! and "come hither, wench!", resting their spurres on the benches and celebrating in such wise as had not been their lot this many a month. The sound of their

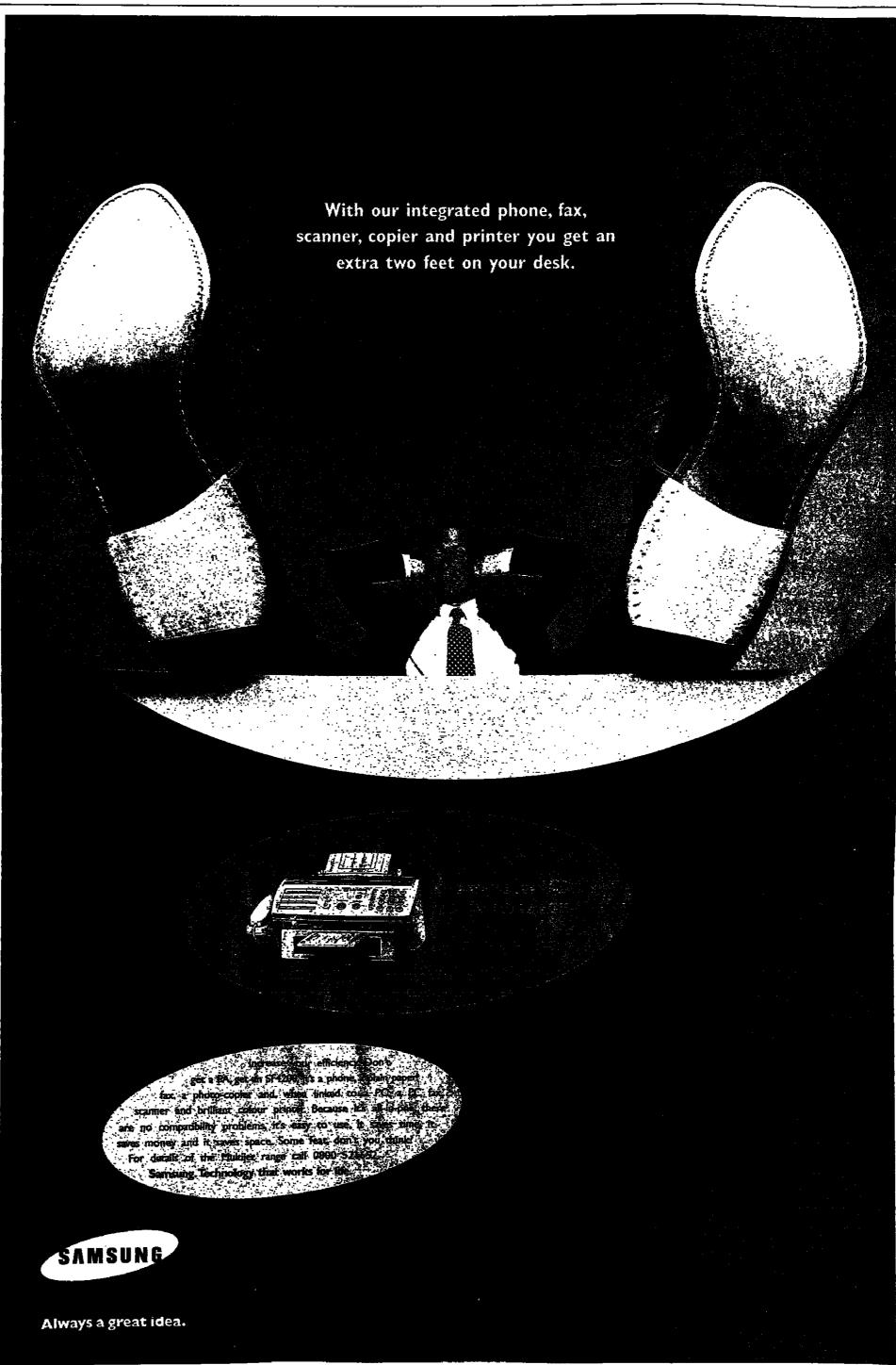
riot drowned all other conversation. The Lord Protector gazed upon this unseemliness with contempt, vowing (said many) to come hither less often, for all the good it did (the Lord was calling him to work upon the

Nation's training and skills).

As evidence of the idleness of affairs in this place he must perforce gaze upon the dolorous countenance of William Cash, ancient and tedious knighte of Stone, who wished to offer ancient and remains angular or order, who wanted to the and anew the advice that he had previously given to the dead king. concerning the Europe conference in Amsterdamme.

The Lord Protector regarded him with a curious expression. 'Let us hope', quoth he, 'that it does me more good

In the crook of an arm, the grey head smiled ruefully."



IRA 'planned sugar bomb hoax on capital'

Crime Correspondent

A self-confessed IRA volunteer told a court yesterday that the terrorist organisation planned an elaborate hoax using fake hombs containing icing sugar to

bring chaos to London and the home counties. Gerard Hanratty gave a step-by-step demonstration at the Old Bailey in London of how he

made the devices. Mr Hanratty, 38, denied that it was ever intended that the dummy bombs should contain explosives. Along with seven other men he denies plotting to attack six electricity sub-stations that link the National

Grid to London. He told the jury yesterday that his IRA unit intended to trick the electricity company into turning off the power.
"The electrical impact would be total disruption in London. All the traffic lights would be out. It would result in chaos. All industries would be starved -

rail. Tube and travel," he said. He added that he thought the "brilliant" plan would have created a political impact for John Major and the British government and make a fool of the ring of steel round London which

stops the IRA entering the City". The prosecution alleges Mr Hanratty was part of an IRA active-service unit which plotted to use bombs to destroy the electricity sub-stations.

Mr Hanratty described making 37 boxes containing elec-trical timing devices after arriving in London. He said that the authorities would have had no option but to deal with the boxes, placed in the sub-stations, as if they were real.

'Any bomb-disposal officer called to deal with such a device in the vicinity of 100,000 volts would have to turn the electricity off before. The result would be no electricity in London for however long it took to deal with the devices. It would take a minimum of hours - we felt they would be dealt with in a day and a half." He added that it was too risky to place explo-

sives in the power stations. He gave a demonstration in court of how he made the devices and said that various clues were to have been left to confuse bomb-disposal experts, including wooden dowels used for arming and safety pegs, which would have indicated the devices were fully armed.

He said the IRA had planned to use icing sugar because when X-rayed it looks like Semtex. He demonstrated how five packets of icing sugar would be placed in a compartment of the device. "It was one organic substance which could fool even the most sophisticated X-ray machine." he told the court. A piece of iron har, which could be mistaken for a detonator, was also to have been included.

Mr Hanratty said that the IRA had used a multitude of strategies over the years, inmortar attacks, car and lorry bombs and hoaxes. "In Belfast, the IRA have carried out thousands upon thousands of different types of attacks ... It closes down the city."

Mr Hanratty, 38, Martin Murphy, 36, Donald Gannon, 34, Patrick Martin, 35, Robert Morrow, 37, Francis Rafferty, 45, John Crawley, 39, and Clive Brampton. 36, all deny conspiring between January and July last year to cause explosions likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property.

Flat out: Sandbanks beach, Poole, Dorset, which was awarded a Blue Flag yesterday

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Cameras help to stub out seaside smoking

lames Mellor

The seaside resort of Bournemouth struck a blow for clean air and clean living yesterday when its town council announced that it has banned smoking on stretches of its sands, and has installed CCTV cameras along its

coastline. The moves came as the popular holiday town was awarded a sought after European Blue Flag award, along with 37 other United

Kingdom beaches. David Jones, the town's sea-front manager, said: "[The no-smoking idea] was quickly adopted. We now have three areas, each about 100 metres wide, where smoking is banned. There is not a bye-law to enforce this

t is just a voluntary code. Most sunseekers backed the initiative. Cyril Bailey, a pensioner, said: "The beaches in Bournemouth and Poole are clean and healthy. I've been to beaches across Europe and none compare to these. No-smoking areas are an important part of that."

But Rick Morrison was angered by the ban. "Soon people will have no freedoms left," he said.

And it's not just the smokers who are seeing how to sack staff changes. Coy bathers who struggle under towels to get their clothes off and swimsuit on may blush a little deeper, as surveillance cameras tape their every move. "CCTV was installed to combat vandalism, crime and bad behaviour," said Mr Jones. Last year it helped with 40 arrests and has slashed the £100,000 vandalism bills.

Blue Flag officials heralded Bournemouth, in Dorset, and the neighbouring town of Poole, as fine examples of good beaches with good management". Dorset boasted three of England's twenty-two nominated beaches, with Wales receiving nine awards, Northern More than twice the number of UK beaches gained accreditation than in 1995, and, across Europe, 2,311

Blue Flags were awarded. Jim Ross, beach services manager at Poole, said: "Families on our sands feel safe. We are proud of what we have done ... more resorts are starting to take beach

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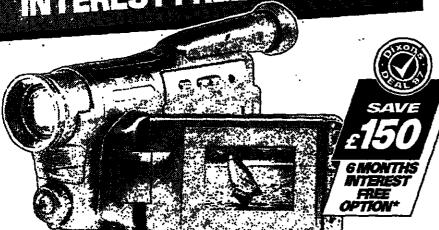
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carry out the first major British Judith Judd Education Editor study of incompetent teachers. He will investigate the grounds by which teachers are judged in-competent and how schools Government attempts to speed up the dismissal of incompetent teachers may founder on heads deal with them. The US rereluctance to confront them,

US teaches heads

according to US research.
Professor Ted Wragg, of Ex-eter University, pointed yes-terday to studies which show heads try to persuade teachers to leave, move them to nonclassroom duties, or pay for spe-

cial counselling or retraining. The reluctance to dismiss people is not confined to the teaching profession. Other managers in industry would rather transfer employees than sack them. Another survey of malpractice in the medical profession found it was almost impossible to persuade doctors to testify against each other. A dif-

ferent group of researchers found this was true of lawyers. Professor Wragg has just re-ceived £139,157 from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation to

search suggests dismissing expensive, costing as much as £100,000 in legal fees. Professor Wragg said last teachers is time-consuming and

night: "The American research shows that even if you have legislation dismissing incompe-tent teachers, is not a simple business. If the rule is that you are dismissed after two unsatisfactory ratings then heads are

The most common grounds used to dismiss teachers in 141 California school are superviser ratings, complaints from pupils, complaints from other teachers and pupils' test scores. Stephen Byers, the school

standards minister, has asked employers and teacher unions how the dismissal procedures for teachers can be cut to six months.

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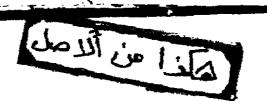
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5th June 1997



Cameras help to stub out seaside

THE INDEPENDENT

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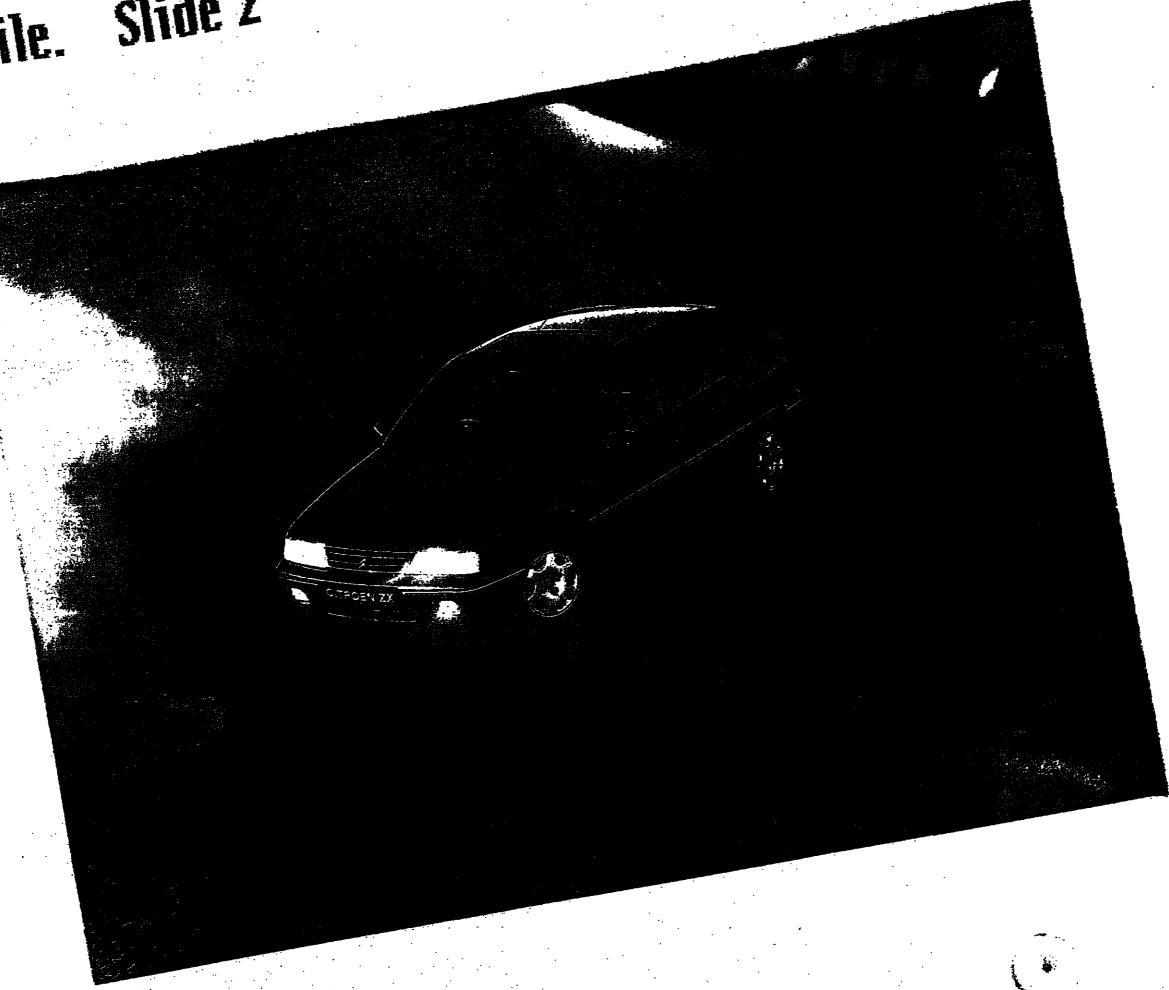
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Consumers can soon sign up for green electricity

Environment Correspondent

Britain's consumers will be offered the chance to buy green. non-poliuting electricity from early next year.

Several electricity supply companies are planning to launch schemes in which customers would sign contracts specifying that all their power came from renewable sources like the wind, water and methane gas generated by rot-ting garbage. These customers would pay a premium price perhaps as much as 10 per cent higher than ordinary bills.

The new thinking was un-veiled at a major conference on global warming in London yes-terday organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The fund is interested in auditing and endorsing such schemes, ensuring they actually boost renewable energy over polluting fossil fuel power stations.

Electricity companies are interested in being able to use WWF's famous panda logo to help sell the scheme.

The opportunity arises because from I April next year the local monopoly of regional electricity companies will end. Any household will be able to buy power from any generator, anvwhere.

Electricity from renewable and conventional sources is mixed on the grid. So the trick. as far as the companies and

PENTIUM

would assure customers who sign up for green electricity that their consumption, year on year, will be matched by extra consumption of renewable energy in the grid as a whole, over and above that which would

have happened in any case. All UK electricity consumers already pay a small levy on their bills - less than 1 per cent - under a government devised scheme to promote renewable energy. This has worked well, in that the number of wind turbines and other green power sources has grown rapidly.

However, next year this sub-

sidy expires for more than 300 megawatts of renewable energy capacity spread out over dozens of small forces, like wind farms. Some are in danger of closing as a result, which would lead to increases in pollution as fossil fuel power took over from them.

Customers pledged to buy green power could, however, keep them going while persuading generators to invest in new renewable energy sources. Sue Gill, of Green Electron.

a subsidiary of West Country electricity company SWEB, said "It's a niche market but one worth pursuing." Her company is hoping to launch a nationwide green electricity scheme next

Dr Merylyn McKenzie Hedger, climate change policy co-ordinator with WWF, said any scheme would need rigorgreen power had been fully matched with renewable energy generation. Michael Meacher, the environment minister, told the conference Britain would not deliver on its new target of cutting carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by 2010 if other European Union na-tions did not go further in curb-

ing greenhouse gas emissions.
The EU has worked out a complex deal on cutting greenhouse gases which allows some of the poorer, less industrialised countries like Portugal to have big increases in their emissions between 2000 and 2010. Europe as a whole is committed to cuts of at least 10 per cent by 2010, making it the leader in the industrialised world.

ERICESON #



The Monk's Tale: Pilgrims heading for Lindisfarne Priory on Holy Island, Northumberland, yesterday on the Canterbury-to-Derry 'Pilgrims Way

DEODD

Britain's Biggest Specialist WWF are concerned, is to de-vise a "matching" system. This tomer demand to buy only ous auditing to ensure cus-PC's son accused

2 de 3 de

in Ulster murder

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

The son of a policeman was among four men who were yesterday charged with the murder of an RUC officer who was kicked to death by loyalists.

The off-duty constable, Gregory Taylor, died outside a bar in Ballymoney, County Antrim, at the weekend. His killing was vesterday condemned in the Commons by Tony Blair who said he abhorred it as random vicious violence.

The four men, all from Ballymoney, who appeared at North Antrim magistrates' court yesterday were charged with murder and affray. They all the charges and were remand-

ed in custody until 20 June. Among them was Leslie Thomas Henry, 30, a plasterer, the son of an RUC reservist. The others were Alistair Samuel Stevenson, 30, a process worker, Mark McIntyre, 27, a civil servant; and Samuel James Coulter, 30, a cleaner.

Mr Taylor's death, which fol-RUC's role in keeping an Orange march out of a nearby Catholic village, increased fears of a repeat of last year's marching season. However, in a move seen as heartening, the Order's Portadown district has written to 1,500 Catholics in Garvaghy Road, the focus of last year's violence, saying it hoped to avoid trouble this year. hands-free

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Life after death for historic tombs

Stephen Goodwin Hentage Correspondent

The dead of north London's most atmospheric cemeteries, Highgate and Kensal Green, should perhaps rise up and toast Sir Jocelyn Stevens and his team at English Heritage.

Over the last 11 years, the Government's heritage quango has given grants totalling £7(00,000 to help with repairs of monuments and other Victorian features at Highgate Cemetery endeavouring to halt structure deterioration without damaging the gentle decay which pervades the 36 acres of tombs and luxuriant growth.

of work in the grandiose western section which contains the most important Victorian architecture of any English ceme-Last night Sir Jocelyn, chairtery. Karl Marx, its most

Fitting tribute: Highgate Cemetery features the most important Victorian architecture of any English cemetery man of English Heritage, was celebrated deceased, lies in the the guest of the Friends of castern section, added in 1855. Highgate Cemetery at a cere-Only last month the Dismony to mark the completion senters' Chapel was reopened at Kensal Green, having been restored from from a crumbling ruin. EH contributed £200,000.

the Circle of Lebanon, a grade two* listed feature and its sepulchral approach along the Egyptian Avenue of family vaults.

The circle takes its name from the 300-year-old cedar at the centre of a circle of cata-The climax of the work at combs which form a giant pot Highgate is the restoration of for the tree. This was Valhalla

for wealthy Victorians but after the First World War the cemetery started to fall into disrepair; tombs were desecrated and coffins broken into by dabblers in black magic.

Within months of the London Cemetery Company closing in 1975, the Friends of Highgate

Photograph: Andrew Buurmar Cemetery was formed and six years later the rescue began.

Richard Quirk, the general manager, calls the repairs "managed neglect". He said: The object has been to stop the clock of deterioration while preserving the character that age bestowed on the cemetery."

Howard's leadership hopes are hit again

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

A third former Home Office minister yesterday took a side-swipe at Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, in a fresh blow to his Conservative leadership campaign.

Charles Wardle told the Commons that when he had been the minister responsible for immigration, he had been instructed to turn a blind eye to a damning DTI inspectors' report on the Al Fayed brothers' take-over of the London store Harrods in order to take a more favourable view of their appeal for British citizenship.

Mr Wardle said he was pressed to reverse a decision by the immigration section of the Home Office which rejected the application by the Al Fayeds.

He later concluded the Al Fayeds had been "stitched up" by the DTI inspectors' report into their take-over of the House of Fraser, but to ignore the report would have been unlawful, compromised the highest standards of the civil servants in the immigration section of the Home Office and would have led to abuses of immigration rules.

Mr Wardle did not name Mr Howard, but it is likely to have inflicted further damage on his campaign for the Tory leadership following criticism from two subordinates. Peter Lloyd and Ann Widdecombe said there

about Mr Howard. He was Mr Wardle's boss at the time, and was at the DTI at the height of Pression trial:
Pression be bombe deat

the Guinness case. Mr Wardle focused on his long-standing demands for a shake-up in DTI investigations, alleging ministerial pressure to capture "scalps" including Lord Spens, a merchant banker, with the Guinness take-over inquiry in the run-up to the 1987 general election, and the investigation into House of Fraser.

"My objective is to put right what I consider to be wrongs. Persistent press inquiries have related to the Conservative leadership contest. I have related time and again to journalists that I was seeking the debate months before the leadership contest was contemplat-

"Having looked back at the vitriolic and unscrupulous warfare between Tiny Rowland and Mohammed al Payed, I have come to the fairly dramatic conclusion that the Al Fayeds were stitched up by a DTI

inquiry. In a reference to the "sleaze" row in which Mr Al Fayed alleged he had paid some Con-servative MPs in £5 notes stuffed into envelopes. Mr Wardle added: "I can understand the general distaste for their unprincipled and unsavoury use of brown envelopes and other inducements ... And yet injustice is injustice."

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DAILY POEM

From the Odes: Book One

By Horace (Translated by Sir Thomas Hawkins - 1625)

Strive not, Leuconoë, to know what end The gods above to me or thee will send: Nor with astrologers consult at all, That thou mayst better know what can befall; Whether thou liv'st more winters, or thy last Be this, which Tyrrhen waves 'gainst rocks do cast. Be wise! drink free, and in so short a space Do not protracted hopes of life embrace. Whilst we are talking, envious Time doth This day's thine own; the nea may be denied.

Two new paperback editions of the Odes of Quintus Horatius Flaccus (65BC-8BC) have just been published. This translation comes from the Wordworth Classics edition, Horace: The Odes (£2.50), which draws on 400 years of English versions, from Ben Jonson to J B Leishman. The Oxford World's Classics volume, The Complete Odes, is edited by David West (Oxford, £6.99).

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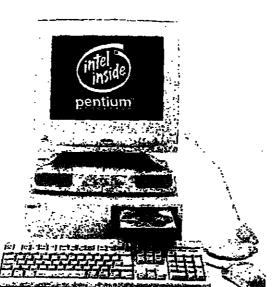
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McVeigh trial: Jury to hear pleas from families for killer to pay ultimate price

Pressure grows to sentence bomber to death

Tim Comwell Los Angeles

The jurors who found Timothy McVeigh guilty were asked yesterday to take a look at the 'hard, cold facts' of the case, and make him pay with his life for the Oklahoma City

bombing.
The 29-year-old former soldier, a decorated gunner in the Gulf war, knew "exactly what the effects of this bomb were go-ing to be." prosecutor Patrick Ryan said.

The victims already had "all the sympathy they can stand," Mr Ryan said. They are lined up in the coming days to demand justice. The jury were to hear from a 10-year-old boy who lost his mother and a rescue worker who held a victim's hand, only to feel the pulse slow and stop.

McVeigh was found guilty on Monday of all 11 counts of bombing, conspiracy, and murder. He faces a minimum of life

But the penalty stage of the trial, with a witness list of more than 100 people in a hearing expected to last several days, will be bitterly fought. From the start, US officials from President Bill Clinton down have promised the ultimate penalty for the bombers.

McVeigh's defence team, meanwhile, faced with a likely guilty verdict, has long set its sights on keeping him alive. His lawvers include several veterans of death cases in Texas, a state which has put 23 people to

mother who remembered praying for the victims of the bomb. to computer workers, a mainlenance man who reads the Bible once a week, a Vietnam War veteran, and a woman teacher who said McVeigh "looks like a nice kid".

All were passed during the jury selection as "death qualified", meaning they were pre-pared to consider the death penalty as the law required it, and had no moral, spiritual or personal objections that ruled it out. Most said it was acceptable in some cases.

Judge Richard Matsch said he would allow photographs of maimed survivors to be introduced along with pictures of victims being wheeled into hospitals, and evidence that some of the victims died slowly as gravel and dust filled their

longs.
"We can't sanitise this scene,"
he said. He drew the line, however, at wedding photos and a
poem by a victim's father. He promised the defence the chance to grill witnesses on whether they had been influenced by earlier trial testimony.

"A penalty phase cannot be turned into some kind of lynch-ing," he said. "This cannot become a matter of such emotional testimony which would inflame or incite the passions of the jury."
The defence has long faced

the problem that McVeigh shows every outward sign of perfect sanity, and though he is said to have been driven by over-whelming hate for the US gov-



shown in public the slightest remorse, or even doubt. There his small-town upbringing, his parents divorce and his absent was no hint yesterday on whether McVeigh himself death this year alone. Whelming hate for the US govThe jury of seven men and five women runs from a grandwhelming hate for the US govwould plead for elemency. Instead friends and family will testify to his loyalty and likeability, reasons for his anger at the gov-

mother, and possibly his failure to qualify for the US special

armed cultists at Waco, Texas, and the bloody stand-off with white supremacists in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, both causes *célèbres* in the militia circles he travelled. The prosecution ves-

aries, a racist novel of a white supremacist uprising. Mr Ryan quoted passages from the book about a fertiliser bomb that could cause a *shockingly large

US moves to prevent BSE with animal feed ban

Mary Dejevsky Washington

The US Food and Drug Administration, the body that reg-ulates the safety of agricultural produce, is banning the use of almost all slaughtered animal parts in livestock feed because of the risk of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or mad cow disease. The ban, accom-panied by official protestations that it is a purely preventive measure, comes into force in 60

days' time. An instruction on the content of livestock feed had been expected since January, when the FDA recommended that no cows, sheep or goats should eat feed that included parts of cow. sheep, goat, deer or mink. The new rule, however, bans the use of all animal protein except pure pork or pure horse (pigs and horses are not known to be affected by BSE).

The US government says there have been no cases of BSE in American cattle. Announcing the ban, the FDA said that if a case of BSE were ever discovered in the US, the ban would prevent it from spread-

ing through feed.
The US livestock industry instituted a voluntary ban on certain animal proteins in cattle feed last year, and their associ-ations yesterday welcomed the FDA ban, saying that it would put a "protective blanket around the cattle industry".

Some specialists say the fact

that the ban does not affect pet food or chicken- or pig-feed, however, leaves open the possibility of this cheaper feed being used for cattle - as happened in some European countries.

Others, including a spokes-woman for the US Consumers' Union, objected that the pork exemption made the ban "toally inadequate". She said that British research showed that igs could be susceptible to

US consumer groups and veterinarians pressed earlier this year for more research products" an offence.

into the possibility of a mad-pig disease, after unearthing a dormant 1979 study that found pigs at one New York slaughterhouse with symptoms suggest-ing a disorder of the central

nervous system. The study said that because the pigs came from many different farms, there was a possibility that there was a widespread problem, but the

findings were never followed up. While there have been consistent denials that there have ever been any BSE cases in the US, there are documented instances of what is described as a spontaneously occurring form of spongiform en-



US not immune from BSE

cephalopathy" in mink and farmed deer. Some scientists believe that the risk of a BSE epidemic exists in the US, where there are 100 million head of cattle, because around the same proportion of animal protein was added to livestock feed, before the new ban, as in Britain.

When a food safety specialist ventured to suggest on a popular television show two years ago, however, that the US might not be immune from BSE, his remarks precipitated a sharp fall in beef prices and left some farmers with huge losses. A Texas farmer who says he lost almost \$7m is suing the Oprah Winfrey Show, and the specialist, under a US law that makes "disparaging the quality of food

Thailand sends drug charge Britons home

Matthew Chance Bangkok

Sandra Gregory, tearful and drawn after more than four

years in a Bangkok prison for heroin trafficking, was escorted under tight security on to a London-bound flight yesterday. She and three other Britons con-victed separately of drugs offences in Thailand were handed over to British officials under a prisoner repatriation scheme which may see a string of British offenders transferred from Thai prisons to serve out their seniences at home, diplomats say.

Shielded from photographers gathered to record the transfer. which is receiving wide attention in Thailand, Gregory, 31, was shackled and taken in a police van from the notorious Klong Prem prison on the outskirts of northern Bangkok to an immi-

gration detention centre.

Gregory, from Halifax in Yorkshire, was herself unable to comment on the transfer: They've told me not to speak to you, she said, as Thai prison guards and British diplomats escorted her past waiting iournalists.

Looking

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premium?

COLLINS

looking forward to going home. She will fly back later this evening," said one British em-

bassy official yesterday.
Thai police arrested Gregory, along with fellow Briton Robert Lock, as they were preparing to board a flight to lokyo in February 1993. Cuslokyo in February 1993. Cus-toms officials at Bangkok's Don Muang international airport found 102 grams of heroin in-side baggage belonging to Gre-gory. She claimed to be carrying the drugs for Lock in exchange for medical expenses and her air

Lock denied any involvement and, after three years of investigations and legal proceedings in Thailand, was found innocent. Gregory pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 25 years: the jail term later was reduced under a Thai royal amnesty to 21 years, 10 months

and 20 days.
Three other Britons were also transferred to British custody yesterday and are believed to have joined Sandra Gregory on her flight home. Kevin Grant, Peter Heather and Andrew Mc-Garrity are each serving between

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"Sandra is very well and 20 and 40 years for drugs of-oking forward to going home. fences committed in Thailand.

Under an agreement signed in 1991, more than 30 British citizens serving prison terms in Thailand, mostly for drugs offences, can apply to serve the re-mainder of their sentences in Britain, provided they have been in Thai custody for more than four years.

Six Britons have already been returned under the scheme which has in the past been dogged by bureaucratic delays. However, the latest transfers have been welcomed by prison welfare groups in Britain who have praised the speedy handling of Sandra Gregory's case by the Thai authorities. Diplomats anticipate more transfers of British prisoners shortly.

"These are transfers, not releases, there will be no reduc-tion in sentences," said Anthony Stokes, a British Embassy official in Bangkok.

"But all those transferred

will qualify for normal British parole arrangements. That still means that in Sandra Gregory's case she may have to serve another nine years in Britain before she is free," he added.

Algerians vote to erase past

Elaine Ganley Associated Press

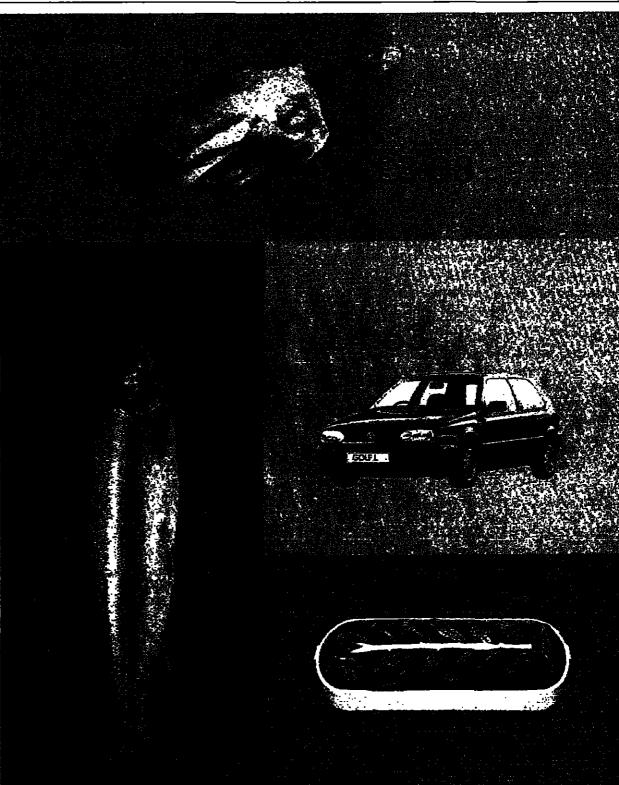
Algiers – In an election that authorities hope will erase the memory of a coup and a cancelled vote, Algerians are casting ballots today for their first

multi-party parliament.

The 16 million voters will have to brave the risk of bombs and overcome a sense of hopelessness wrought by five years of a Muslim insurgency, a movement fed by desperation over unemployment and corruption. Only the soldiers posted

throughout Algiers hinted at the stakes in an election that President Liamine Zeroual sees as a step toward ending the insurgency in which 60,000 have died. Mr Zeroual hopes to widen the government's political base by restoring an elect-ed parliament, which was scrapped five years earlier, sparking the insurgency. The shadow of the 1992 par-

liamentary vote, cancelled in a coup to thwart victory by Mus-lim fundamentalists, was everpresent in campaign speeches. and in bombs that shook the



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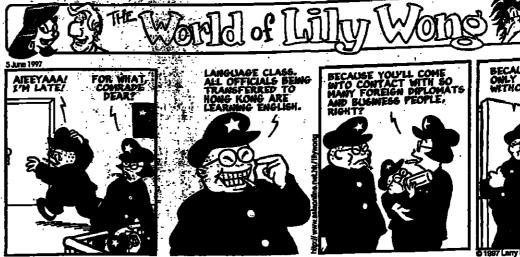


GOLF PRICE REFERS TO THE 14L 3 DR MODEL, UNLADEN WEIGHT 1075 KG, ON THE ROAD PRICE £10,980 GROCERY PRICES REFER TO AN AVERAGE TAKEN FROM SEVERAL SUPERMARKETS ON 4/5/97 IN A GIVEN LOCALITY.

Hong Kong

50,000 defy China to remember Tiananmen







As many as 55,000 Hong-Kong territory's incoming post-colo-

nial administration by joining one of the biggest rallies held before the handover to Chinese

listened intently as Szeto Wah, one of the democracy movement's leaders, told them that he did not underestimate "the difficulties and dangers that we have to pay". He vowed that rule, a sombre crowd last night the movement would continue even when the seas run dry and the rocks crumble".

Another of the rally's or-ganisers, Kong Ho-sui, said that even if rallies of this kind were banned next year, the people would assemble at the same time and place as indi-viduals and would defy the authorities to stop them.

Standing under a massive banner inscribed with the Chinese characters for "fight to the end". Yeung Sum, a legislator and rally organiser, said civil dis-obedience might be necessary in future if Hong Kong wished to continue supporting China's democracy movement.

was far bigger than in recent years. "We are going back to China, so we have to stand up", said Lau San-ching, a former political prisoner in China who oined the demonstration. He believed Hong Kong had a better chance of influencing China once it returned to Chinese sovereignty. "However many people we get to demonstrate, it doesn't matter hassure we it doesn't matter, because we will be demonstrating in a part of China", he said.

As usual, the democracy

movement managed to mobilise an impressive cross-section of the population ranging from babes in arms to the frail and elderly. Factory workers in grubby T-shirts mixed with smartly dressed executives in designer-made casual clothing.

In the sweltering heat of a humid Hong Kong summer night the crowd sang patriotic songs and roared slogans calling for the release of dissidents, freedom, democracy and an end to one party dictatorship. They waved small candles in the air as they stood in silent tribute to those who died in Tiananmen Square eight years ago.

Some of those attending the rally said they would not dare to come again next year, but others were determined not to be cowed. Opinion polls show a remarkably high degree of support for the democracy movement and an equally large number of people who believe that their protest activities will be doomed under the new gov-

The sensitivity surrounding last night's rally is reflected in the row over a statue called the "Pillar of Shame" by the Dan-ish sculptor Jens Galschiot. The statue was displayed at the rally but had to be taken down within an hour of its end. Applications for its temporary display in a public place have been turned down by local Chinese authorities and the incoming government have declined to make it clear whether protests of this kind will be legal after 1 July. Nor is it known ganises this annual commemoration will be banned.

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Executive-designate of the new Kong people to put down the "June 4 baggage". He said they should look forward to the prospect of reunification with China rather than backwards to

an event eight years ago. Cui Tiankai, China's foreign ministry spokesman, joined Mr Tung in refusing to say whether Hong Kong's 6 million residents are most concerned about is the

The new regime will intro-duce laws to outlaw activities

Newspaper raided

Hong Kong's powerful Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) yesterday crackdown on a newspaper company accused of falsifying its circulation figures, writes Stephen Vines.

Six executives from the English language Hong Kong Standard newspapers were arrested and the homes and offices of ICAC, which has wide power of search and arrest.

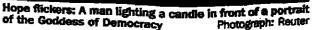
accused the Hong Kong Standard and Sunday Standard of "fraudulently and systemati to deceive a "UK based circulation audit company and local advertising clients".

which undermine "national security". The precise nature of these activities has not been defined, aside from a statement by Mr Tung's office saying that the new government will ban organisations and activities which challenge "the safeguarding of the territorial integrity and the independence of the People's Republic of China". China insisted on introducing

laws covering subversion and national security following the mass protests in Hong Kong after the 1989 massacre. The Chinese government felt challenged when as many as a fifth of the population came out on the streets to protest at this time.

The passion and sadness of eight years ago has now faded. but memories of Tianammen remain surprisingly vivid and fears of something similar happening in Hong Kong are not entirely absent.





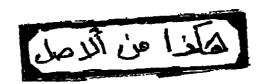


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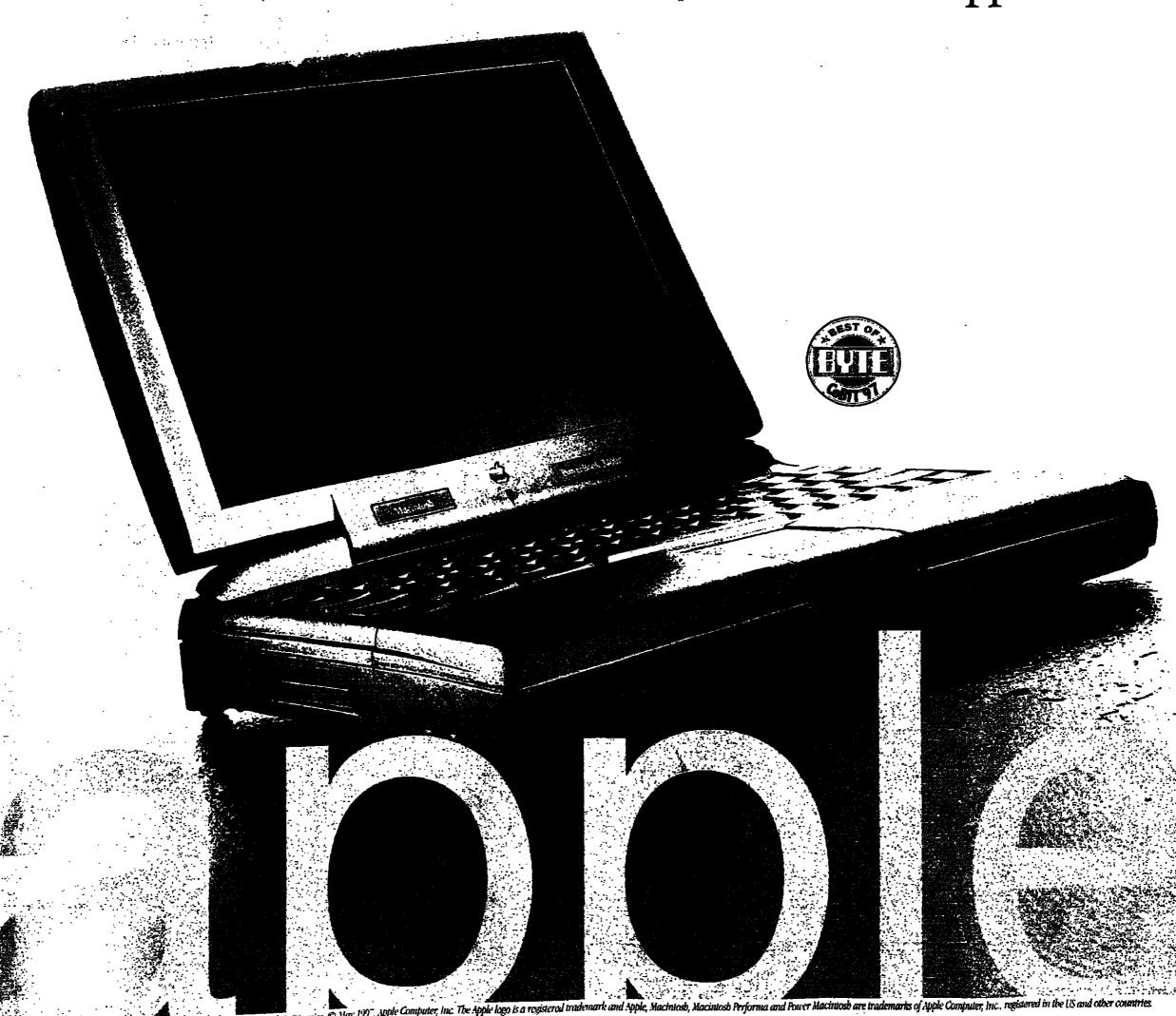




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Introducing the 240MHz Macintosh PowerBook 3400.

The new Macintosh PowerBook 3400 is not only the latest mobile offering from Apple...it's also frighteningly powerful. Thanks to its PowerPC processor, that runs at 240MHz, it's as impressive when tasked with multimedia, as it is when handling sophisticated spreadsheets. But it isn't just quick, it's also got everything you could ever need built-in. Infrared networking technology saves you messing around with cables and attachments, when you need to be connected. It has an expansion bay into which you can place a floppy disk drive, a 12-speed CD-ROM drive (both delivered as standard) or a Zip drive. Add to that, four stereo speakers, a 3GB hard disk and memory that's expandable up to 144MB—and you have a machine that puts most desktop systems to shame. Whatever you've ever wanted to do, the Macintosh PowerBook 3400 lets you do it—wherever you are. To find out more, call the Apple Information Centre, free on: 0800 174574 or visit our Web site at: http://www.euro.apple.com/uk



international

Jospin names ministers for left-wing rule

Paris (Reuters) — Lionel Jospin, the new Socialist Prime Minister, formed France's new day comprising 14 full ministers, with the Socialist Martine Aubry, as his number two, holding a superministry for employment and social solidarity.
President Jacques Chirac's

office announced that Dominique Strauss-Kahn, author of the Socialist Party's economic platform in the parliamentary elec-tion which ended last Sunday, was appointed minister of economics, finance and industry.

Hubert Vedrine, former chief-of-staff to the late president François Mitterrand, was appointed foreign minister, and Alain Richard, a Socialist budget expert, will be defence

Socialist Elisabeth Guigon was appointed justice minister, and Mr Jospin's close adviser Claude Allegre, a university professor, minister of education, research and technology. The Prime Minister's other closest political associate, Daniel Vail-lant, was named minister for relations with parliament.

Jean-Pierre Chevenement,

leader of the anti-Maastricht Citizens' Movement, was named interior minister, and Communists Jean-Claude Gayssot and Marie-George Buffet were appointed, respectively, minister of infrastructure, transport and housing and minister

of youth and sports. Catherine Trautmann, the mayor of Strasbourg, will be minister of culture and communications and government spokeswoman, and Louis Le Pensec takes charge of agriculture and fisheries. Both are



Martine Aubrey: Number two

Dominique Voynet, the Greens party leader, was given the environment and regional development ministry and for the centre-left Radical Socialist Party, Emile Zuccarelli will be minister of the civil service, administrative reform and decentralisation.

Mr Strauss-Kahn, 48, a former industry minister, made his name as a strong advocate of the French concept of a mixed economy coupling gradual freemarket reform with the defence of a strong state role in industry. A close confidant of Mr Jospin, he has championed the party line on Europe which favours closer integration and monetary union but demands further talks on the details of the

He was among the first to suggest criteria in the Maastricht treaty on monetary union be interpreted politically rather than in strict mathematical terms. He has also advocated a slightly "softer" euro, saying it should be used to boost job creation and economic growth. Hubert Vedrine, the new forhabitation" - power-sharing between a president and government of different parties. He is also a leading experts on strat-

egy and international relations. Mr Vedrine, 49, who takes a portfolio that will involve travelling abroad with President Chirac, earned his spurs as diplomatic adviser, strategic affairs adviser, spokesman and chief aide to Mr Mitterrand. "He knows the ministry inside out," a foreign ministry source said. He has criticised Mr Chirac's

moves to bring France back into Nato's US-led military wing, saying Paris should not make concessions without achieving a real shift of power to the Europeans within the alliance.



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Spacious interior

Italy opts for new 'presidential' system

Italy made its first important step yesterday towards reforming its chaotic political system.

of a "semi-presidential" model along French lines, giving increased powers to a directly elected head of state and maintaining a relatively weak executive answerable to parliament. The decision was an embarrassment for the commission's president, Massimo D'Alema, of the leftwing PDS, who had pleaded for a British-style system with a strong prime minister. On the right, it was viewed as a half-satisfactory step towards full presidential rule along Andrew Gumbel - Rome

Pakistan eyes Indian missiles

Pakistan's Army chief, General Jehangir Karamat, warned yesterday that his country had to develop a means of deterring or defeating a missile attack from India. "In the absence of reassurances, we would have no option but to go ahead with the development of an indigenous capability," he said. This is taken to mean that Pakistan will also deploy ballistic missiles. There have been reports that Pakistan has obtained missiles from China, which Islamabad denies. The general was reacting to reports that India had moved Prithvi missiles to the border with **Christopher Bellamy**

Cook praises British staff

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, paid tribute to the British High Commissioner in Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, and his staff, who managed the evacuation of 2.500 foreign nationals, sometimes under fire. They were finally airlifted from the former British colony by US Marines on Tuesday. "We are very, very proud of the work that has been done by our staff there," Mr Cook said. I would pay tribute to Peter Penfold and all those who worked with him, and express also our personal relief that we have been able to get them out of Sierra Leone. It is a tribute to their courage that they stayed to the very last minute and left only when further presence would Christopher Bellamy play no useful part."

Asylum seeker dies in fire

One man died and 53 people, including nine children, were injured in a fire in an asylum seekers' hostel in the southern German town of Friedrichshafen. Police were not sure what caused the blaze, but said that an arson attack could not be ruled out. Reuters - Friedrichshafen

Iraq oil-for-food deal extended

The UN Security Council agreed unanimously to extend an oil-for-food deal to Iraq for another six months despite complaints from Washington and Baghdad about the programme. The 15-member council refused Iraqi requests to increase the amount of oil it can sell to buy food and medicine for its people suffering the effects of six years of sanctions.

Tapie gets six more months

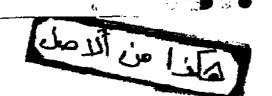
A French court sentenced jailed bankrupt tycoon Bernard Tapie to six more months in prison on tax evasion charges for passing off pleasure cruises on his luxury yacht as business expenses. The former cabinet minister is already serving an eight-month sentence for evading more than FF12m (£1.3m) in taxes.

Double agents, double deal

The head of Russian intelligence has made a public appeal to Russians spying for foreign powers - call our hotline and become double agents. The deal from Moscow's chief spycatcher is simple. Own up, and you can go on taking money from your foreign paymasters. Keep quiet, and we will get you in the end...Reuters - Moscow



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Naked emperor greets young pretender

Tony Blair's visit comes when the German Chancellor's credibility is in shreds, writes Imre Karacs in Bonn

The moment Helmut Kohl had long dreamed of is approaching. Tomorrow, the last of the con-tinent's Old Guard plays host to a British prime minister ungurdened by a visceral fear of Europe, the first such specimen to alight in Bonn during the

Chancellor's 15-year reign, Theirs will be a meeting to savour, even if the symbolism of it all may not rub off on Mr Kohl the way he had hoped. When Tony Blair swept to victory last month, the Chancellor perceived a defeat for Euro-scepticism and, by extension, a triumph of his own creed.

But his ever more strident domestic opposition is decipher-ing a different writing on the wall: "In England and France the policy you have been pursuing for years has failed," claimed Oskar Lafontaine, the social Democrat leader, at yesterday's stormy session of the

The German left naturally has an ideological axe to grind, but the feeling that Mr Kohl's European vision is a gross distortion of reality breaches political divides. Was it not, after all, the reactionary Bundesbank allied with conservative MPs that thwarted the gold theft of the century?

The misjudged attempt to

syphon off the Bundesbank's gold for the sake of monetary union has torn Mr Kohl's credibility to shreds, not just among the hanking fraternity, but also among ordinary Germans, The self-crowned emperor of Europe was caught with no clothes on, and however he dresses up now, he will henceforth always seem naked. In yesterday's parliamentary

debate, provoked by an oppo-sition motion of no confidence in the Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, the Chancellor tried common European house ...



the old flame: "We need the sin-gle European currency," Mr Kohl declared. "It is the basic will do everything - everything will do everything - everything precondition for peace and - to ensure that the time-table freedom and for building the and the criteria are adhered to." - to ensure that the time-table Everything, including cook-

ing the books, Italian-style, the cynics muttered.

The massed ranks of government MPs - united for the day - managed to see off the motion with 17 votes to spare.

but they have yet to demon-

strate that they can agree on anything else. The budget for this year and next has a huge hole because the squabbling coalition parties are unable to

unite behind an alternative source of revenue.

In the resulting deadlock, which could still bring Mr Kohl down 15 months before the scheduled elections, Germany's effort to meet the Maastricht criteria goes begging. "Three point nought is three point nought," chants the Finance Minister, but three point five it is going to be, according to all the experts.

That would not be such a big problem, had Mr Kohl not ocked the rest of Europe into the 3 per cent cage. The German government's posturing now smacks, according to Mr Lafontaine, of "cynicism towards the other EU member states".

Basking in the undying hatred of Italy and the other countries of the "Club Med" for opposing their applications, Mr Kohl has now been confronted unexpectedly with a French government

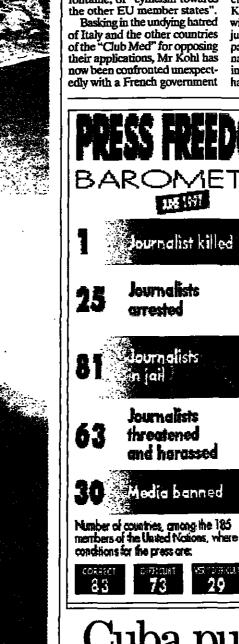
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that may no longer play ball. He tried to make light of it yesterday, declaring that "we should not concern ourselves so much with what other member states are doing to qualify for the [Maastricht] criteria". "Political developments in the neighbourhood should not give rise to speculation whether they are still on course for EMU. he added.

But the awkward "neighbourhood" will limit Germany's room for manoeuvre and, conversely, create opportunities for the new British government. Tomorrow's first official meeting between the ancien régime and New Labour, in conjunction with the fresh winds blowing from Paris, is seen in Germany as a turning point in the conti-

nental power game. Mr Blair comes to Bonn staking a claim for a place in the top rung of European politics; niche in the triangle that London hopes will replace the Franco-German axis. Despite the lukewarm noises emanating from Bonn, the German govcrament has been impressed with the Blair team's straight batting in Europe, and appears to relish the chance of working with or against Mr Blair, rather than his unfathomable prede-

For the moment, Anglo-German actimony will lie buried. The British government has already stated that it will not obstruct the conclusion of the Inter-governmental Conference, and has laid all its cards on the table. Nevertheless, the differences will be plain to see. Mr Kohl will not enjoy being seen with an equal a generation his junior. The impression that a patriarch well past the age of natural retirement will be meeting the young pretender will be hard to avoid



of the month

Chechnya. On 10 May three journalists from the principly award television channel MV was elad napped near Samadiki. oraging to seven the number of newsgatherers centerity held hostage. In 1997, six journ casts were released by their copions.

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Cuba punishes journalists for daring to differ

Phil Davison Latin America Correspondent

It does not pay to be an "independent journalist" in Cuba. It's not only the tapped phones, the cut-off lines, the threats to your relatives or the jail spells. It's not even the kind of beating handed out to dissident journalist Joaquin Torres last week by four thugs, presumably from the State Security bureau.

It's just that there is no news outlet that will print or broadcast your material. The 100 or so self-styled "independent journalists" who have emerged over the last few years to challenge Fidel Castro's one-party Communist rule send their stories or radio reports to Cuban-American media outlets in the United States, usually via telephone calls to sympathisers in third countries and almost al-

ways without payment. They survive, in spite of official harassment, on cash sent to them by such groups as the French-based Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Frontiers). But even that buys little more than pens, pencils and paper - all hard to come by in Havana.

Their main radio outlet is Radio Marti, a US-based station run by Cuban exiles, administered by the Voice of America Caribbean island. Printed nalism," said Mr Solano, 45.

stories get used by such Spanish-language publications as Diario de los Americas and El Nuevo Herald, sister publication of the Miami Herald.

Most of the "independent journalists" broke away from Cuba's official publications and state broadcasting media, dis-illusioned with daily repetitions of the success of the latest fiveyear economic plan or other government propaganda. They set up the first independent agencies in 1995.

Although these agencies are illegal, the authorities largely turn a blind eye. Their "bureaux" are their bedrooms, their transport is bicycles and their equipment usually battered typewriters or just pencils and scraps of paper.

A government raid a year ago on one of the independent agencies, in which every pen and pencil was taken away, was a major setback in a country where schools are desperately short of such basic equipment.

One founder of the independent journalists' movement, Rafael Solano, opted for exile in Spain last year after being jailed for six weeks and charged with "criminal association," which could have put him in prison for three years.

"They said I couldn't come back and that they would evenand widely heard on the tually crush independent jour-



following charges to dealer, 12 months road fund licence and estimated cost of number plates.

James Thin

University cities are enhanced by famous and distinguished specialist bookshops. Oxford has Blackwell's. Cambridge has Heffers and Edinburgh has Thin's. Across the street from the Old Quadrangle of Edinburgh University in South Bridge is the sprawling, shambling premises of James Thin, a haunt of many scholars and antiquaries, with a world-wide reputation.

At the centre of its business over four decades, from 1949 to 1990, was the bustling, athletic figure of James ("Jimmy") Thin, great-grandson of that James Thin who founded the firm in 1848, man of letters, mountaineer, and descendant of the Edinburgh Enlightenment, Sir Edward Appleton, Nobel prizewinning physicist and vicechancellor, opined to my parents that Thin's had become a department of the university; and de facto it was just that. Indeed, for most of the last century, James Thin was the official publisher of the university in an age when Edinburgh was the printing centre of the world. Generations of undergraduates and postgraduates have browsed and often bought (though not always were purchases made) in its tolerant

After the Second World War Jimmy Thin set the tone. Ainslie Thin, one of the leading spirits of the current United Kingdom book trade and now the company's chairman, was joint managing director with his cousin and enjoyed an excellent relationship with him. He says: "In the business, Jimmy was always happier to be a real bookseller than an administrator. He very much enjoyed, and appreciated the impor-



hope rode the tiger of inde-

pendent film distribution.

bringing films from all over the

world to Britain and finding

He combined an intense

commitment to cinema as a

medium of ideas and a force for

social change, with the entre-

preneurial skills and instincts of

a studio boss manque. But per-

haps his greatest gift was for the

business of living. There was no

situation so grim, no cash-flow

crisis so acute that it was not the

material for a rolling sequence

of jokes as Kirkhope reviewed

the situation in relation to the

current global balance of forces

between left and right, the aes-

thetics of cinema and the sex-

ual peccadilloes of his current creditor.

a childhood in South Wales

which left him a socialist of a

kind in which in these Blairite

audiences for them.

tance of, talking to his customers and indeed writing to the English translations of Gerthousands of his customers, many of them overseas, who wrote in to enquire about books

- many of these customers

ry Book (1965), My Second Big

Story Book (1966) and My Third became his friends."

I come into the category of customer who became friend. The trouble to which he would go was infinite. In 1955, for my Christmas vacation reading, my university supervisor, the economist Harry Johnson, had told me to study Professor Johnny Von Neumann's Theory of Games and had lent me his own personal copy. Horror of horrors, my suitcase in which I had the volume was pinched. Distraught, I went to Jimmy

Sympathetic to my plight, he went to the trouble of bor-rowing a copy of this then obscure work from a friend of his in the university, to let me get on with my studying - and 10 days later somehow got a replacement volume from London. He insisted that he would take cost price! One does not forget these things. I joined the ranks of Thin's lifelong

Jimmy Thin left Loretto in 1942 and joined the Army at the first possible opportunity. It was characteristic that he should opt to go out to the Gurkhas in India and used his off-duty time to climb mountains and to learn to speak fluent Urdu. He never pretended that he had been in the thick of the fighting in Burma and was modest about his war service, which I am told by others was enormously to his credit. He returned to take a degree in languages and literature at Edinburgh University and was inspired by the Professor of Walter Horace Bruford.

The family wisely determined that he should not go straight in to the family firm but, like a scion of a noble house in the Middle Ages, should be apprenticed to another baron's court. Therefore he was depatched to Cambridge for six months, to Bowes and Bowes, and for another six months to a bookshop in Zurich, before he returned to the family business. Even then he was told to be a part-time publisher with Oliver & Boyd in Edinburgh, specialising in publishing scholarly

and theological books.

versity in the late Sixties before

working in industry around

Cardiff in a variety of junior

managerial jobs. He also man-

aged an unlikely spell as a

physics teacher in a Dagenham

school before the man and

the hour were brought togeth-

er when he joined the Other

Cinema, as a part-time bookkeeper, in 1972.

founded in an attempt to pro-

vide both exhibition and distri-

bution for the global wave of

alternative films produced in the aftermath of '68. With his typ-

ical financial acumen, Kirk-

hope set about splitting the

distribution business from the

cinema so that, when the cine-

tle Newport Street continued to

bring the work of film-makers

Miss Moira Anderson, singer, 57; Professor Robert Buchanan, founder. Centre for the History of

Technology, Bath, 67; Mr A.R. Daw-son, rugby player, 65; Miss Beatrice

de Cardi, archaeologist, 83; Sir John

Dellow, former Deputy Commis-sioner, Metropolitan Police, 66; Miss Margaret Drabble, novelist, 58; Pro-

fessor Charles Fletcher, former chair-

man of Ash, 86: The Very Rev Kerry

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 56; Mrs Elizabeth Shaw, executive di-

rector and secretary. Charity Com-

mission, 51; Mr Richard Stone,

portrait painter, 46; Sir Arthur Vick, former Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University of Belfast, 86; Vice-

Admiral Sir Barry Wilson, former

deputy chief of Defence Staff, 61.

Births: Adam Smith, political econ-

omist, 1723; Victor François Desci-

gnes, conductor and composer, 1805; John Couch Adams, astronomer,

1819: Ivar Hallström, pianist and

Anniversaries

like Jean-Luc Godard and

He was born in 1949. After library from a new base in Lit-

days should probably be de- Chantal Ackerman, Joris Ivens

scribed as Neanderthal, Kirk- and Ousmane Sembene to the

Birthdays

ma bit the dust, the distribution

The Other Cinema had been

man fairy stories into English, R. Bamberger's My First Big Sto-Big Story Book (1967), all of which were later reissued by

In his business Jimmy Thin is remembered by his colleagues for his prodigious energy. He didn't simply tackle problems. he attacked problems. Above all he loved books, he read books and he respected books. Many hundreds of his customers sought his advice when they were about to travel, or about to study a subject, as to what they should read. He was discerning, impatient of badly written books, keenly interested in good authors and had not the slightest hesitation in telling customers not to waste their time, even if it meant that his shop was deprived of a sale.

Even in a city where a large number of the citizens have an extensive knowledge of anti-quarian books he was highly regarded and frequently to be seen enjoying himself at auction. He said computers gave him no pleasure, but he learnt to use them. His business became bigger and thrived, although one sometimes felt that he himself regretted this.

Outside business. Thin had many interests. He was a member of the "Monks of St Giles" an Edinburgh literary society which indulges in literary conversation and the reading of poetry, some of it very amusing, written by the members of the coterie. He was a mountaineer and walked on the hills with Marjorie, his wife of 40 years. They spent a lot of time on the magic island of Barra, where he had a small cottage, and where he could get away from crowds. He was a champion of wilderness.

Thin had bagged every Munro - that is, climbed every mountain above 3,000ft in Scotland - apart from one rather simple slope. He was saving this for his 80th birthday.

Tam Dalyeli

James Thin, bookseller: born Edinburgh 26 November 1923; partner, James Thin 1949-73, joint managing director, James Thin Ltd 1973-90; married 1956 Marjorie Pollitt (four sons); died Edinburgh 1 June 1997.

Tony Kirkhope

For three decades Tony Kirk-hope took a degree in engi-hope rode the tiger of inde-neering at Nottingham Uni-Britain. The Other Cinema crucial screens in London for Metro Tartan label bought the

quickly became what it was to

remain: the main source of rad-

ical films in Britain. The daily

bread of agitprop and avant-

garde was occasionally supple-

mented with the cake of a hit as

Themroc or Tixi zum Clo found

The Other Cinema was a

genuine collective, but from

early on Kirkhope was primus

inter pares and this was con-

firmed when at the end of the

Seventies he moved the cinema

to the floors above an Ann Sum-

mers shop in Wardour Street.

Here he was soon joined by Ben

Gibson, a film graduate 10

years his junior, and together

they set about persuading Ken Livingstone's GLC to subsidise

When the Metro opened in

1985, in Rupert Street, Soho, its

first two features were Stephen

Frears's My Beautiful Laun-

drette and Jean-Luc Godard's

Hail Mary, and ever since then

Villa, Mexican revolutionary leader.

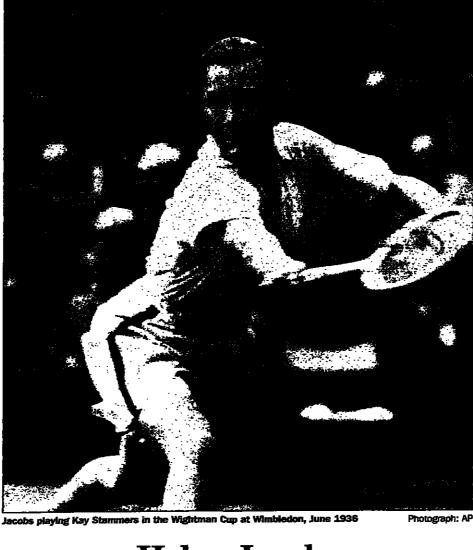
1878; Igor Fedorovich Stravinsky,

composer, 1882; John Maynard Keynes, first Baron Keynes, econo-

a new cinema venture.

surprisingly large audiences.

Britain. The Other Cinema crucial screens in London for



Helen Jacobs

Helen Jacobs, the great American tennis player, was always known as "Helen II". She was overshadowed by an even greater Californian, Helen Wills Moody. They were the great rivals of the 1930s, competition between them dubbed "The Battle of the Helens" by the US press. Jacobs - three years the junior

was forced to play second fiddle to Moody, who beat her in four Wimbledon finals between 1929 and 1938. However Jacobs did claim the Wimbledon crown in 1936 when she defeated Hilde Sperling, of Denmark, 6-2, 6-4, 7-5. Jacobs was also runner-up

to Dorothy Round in 1934. Jacobs won only one of her 11 head-to-head meetings with Moody and that was in the US national final at Forest Hills Tennis Stadium in 1933. It was tainted by controversy when 1939. Such was her popularity Moody retired with a back in-

anyone interested in the variety

of British and world cinema.

One of the most important of

the many cultural projects that

Kirkhope took on in the Eight-

ies was the Latin American

Film Festival, which he found-

ed in 1989 with Eva Tarr, to

whom he was married in 1994.

were, however, much more

than a distribution company or

a cinema. Kirkhope leased out

tiny offices to a transient pop-

ulation of aspiring film pro-

ducers or cultural organisations.

From Derek Jarman and Isaac

Julien to the Independent Film-

Makers Association and the

Miners' Video Project. Kirk-

hope played generous host to all

those elements of the counter-

culture which were one of the

In 1991, in the wake of Gib-

son's departure to BFI pro-

duction, Kirkhope formed a

partnership with Hamish

legacies of the Sixties.

The offices in Wardour Street

jury when trailing 8-6, 3-6, 3-0. It was her first defeat since 1926. America's best sportswoman in 1943. She was a pioneer of fe-Jacobs went on to win four male players wearing shorts; successive US titles, from 1932 to 1935, and in 1936 was ranked having been refused permission to wear them at the Wight-No 1 in the world. She should man Cup in 1933, she appeared have beaten Moody in the 1935 in shorts later that year at the Wimbledon final where she held

She lost the point and the next three games for the match. Stockily built, Jacobs was a great fighter. She had a powerful service and smash and a sound backhand, but she never learned to hit a flat hand drive, despite her friendship, and

a match point in the deciding set

but everything went against her.

some coaching, from the great tennis player Bill Tilden. Jacobs played a big part in the US run of successes over Great Britain in the now-defunct Wightman Cup from 1927 to

Metro Tartan label bought the

best of contemporary cinema

and many classic titles into

Britain's video shops. The part-

nership with McAlpine, a scion

of a family whose name is more

readily associated with building

and the Conservative Party than

the cultural industries was an

unlikely one. However, they

made a formidable team and

as Metro Cinemas expanded,

with a cinema at Henley the

first of several planned, there

were ambitious plans for moves

into production and more

It can only be idle surmise

as to how this unrepentant

soixante-huitard would have car-

ried his vision of a cinema of

ideas and different into the

next millennium. Kirkhope's

ability to combine the hardest-

nosed of business approaches

with a genuine cultural and

political commitment is a rare

talent and it is difficult to see

anybody picking up the torch

mainstream distribution.

US championships. During the Second World War, Jacobs joined the US navy

intelligence service and reached the rank of commander, one of only five women to do so. In 1947 she became a professional player. She also became a prolific writer of tennis books and schoolgirl stories, a farmer and a sportswear designer. She was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1962.

Bill Edwards

Helen Hull Jacobs, tennis player: born Globe, Arizona 6. lugust 1908; died Easthampton, New



which he has been forced to drop. British cinemagoers of the last quarter of a century owe much to a man determined to widen the range of images avail-able to British audiences. The British film industry has lost one of its most important players.

Colin MacCabe

Anthony James Henry Kirkhope; film distributor: horn Dumbarton 10 October 1949; married 1994 Eva Tarr; died London 29

Alexander Kazhdan

Alexander Kazhdan was a giant among Byzantinists in a subject which tends to giants - and gigantomachy. The towering autorefer to his books, which they thority of his 50 years of publication stands upon an undeviating intellectual career which simply ignored the climate, whether in Stalin's Moscow or Clinton's Washington.

Kazhdan was born in Moscow in 1922. In 1944 he married Musya Ivanskaya, who did feel the cold but became the model of a dissident's wife. The poor eyesight which saved Alexander Kazhdan from callup to the Great Fatherland War was later to threaten drivers on the Washington Beltway. Instead he enrolled with E.A. Kosminsky, the historian of medieval England, who drafted Kazhdan into Byzantine Studies, then being revived as an oblique part of the national search for the Russian Fatherland. But from 1946 until well af-

ter Stalin's death in 1953 the highway to academic prefer-ment was blocked. The families of Alexander and Musya Kazhdan were tainted: not just as bourgeois, but Jewish - by race rather than religion: among Kazhdan's earliest publications are texts on atheism, which perhaps aroused his awareness of Byzantium as a politically Orthodox state. In Stalinist terminology the Kazhdans were "rootless cosmopolitans". Rootless they were not, but Alexander Kazhdan made the accusation of "cosmopolitan" a virtue. From his academic exile in teachers' training colleges in Tula or Velikye Luki, scholars in the West incautious enough to write on Byzantium began to receive crabby letters, to which Kazhdan expected a reply.

From 1956 he was back in Moscow. The Kazhdans' tiny apartment shrank his files to scale: their format was the size of a large postage stamp, which he could pocket to take to the libraries: necessity imposed a pointilliste approach, with a passion for order and categorisation which brought him close to Byzantines such as the 12thcentury historian Niketas Choniates, noting how he used every word. These cards, at which Kazhdan squinted on the Moscow Metro, were classified not just by their subjects' thought, word and deed, but by heads, bodies and legs. The intellectual scale was cosmic. adding up to a "homo Byzan-tinus". Like Kosminsky, Kazhdan began with the peasant. moving on to works on culture (in 1968) and the ruling class

By 1976 the climate had still not thawed. The emigration of with him? Certainly they hung the Kazhdans' son David to the on to his wry wit as much as United States did not help and in Moscow the Khrushchevite young guard just became old under Brezhnev. Zaina Udaltsova, Kazhdan's departmental head at the Historical Institute of the Soviet Academy, is now perhaps best remembered for her attempts to pin the awkward giant down. There were pinpricks. In 1976 I arranged to meet Kazhdan at last in Moscow to collaborate on a session of the International Byzantine Congress. The usual channels produced the wrong Kazhdan (a psychiatrist), so we

CORRECTION: The photograph illustrating yesterday's obituary of Nikolai Tikhonov (1896-1979).

wolfed the caviare which In-

tourist offered in silence. The

real Kazhdan did not show up

By 1979 Kazhdan had become an unperson. Soviet scholars found ingenious ways could no longer find in libraries For Kazhdan, outspoken in favour of public discussion, this was the last straw. Somehow his precious files turned up in diplomatic shoeboxes in Vienna and there was relief in Moscow when Musya and Alexander arrived without passports in Paris.

Still without identity, they were allowed passage to the Centre for Byzantine Studies in Birmingham University. There he lectured like Gladstone; full measure. To us it was no shock. In Russia he had been a window on the West, an interpreter of the French Annales School, then already running its course. Was he now going to be a window on the East? But what most shocked Kazhdan, in February 1979, was that we did not know how to deal with snow in Birmingham. Scornful, he climbed straight up on to the roof of my house to send it down.

Kazhdan spent the remainder of his life at Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard University's Byzan tine research outstation in Washington, which is a bosky swimming pool attached to an incomparable library in a house with echoes of Stravinsky where, if he had wished, Kazhdan could have ordered filing cards the size of bedsheets. He did not. His own cards held the matter of three great books: People and Power, with Giles Constable (1982); Literature, with Simon Franklin (1984); and Change, with Ann Epstein (1990); and finally his edition of The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium (1991), a massive undertaking which he had first

mooted in the 1940s. Dumbarton Oaks had perhaps expected to exhibit a giant from the East, but some were unnerved by Kazhdan's candour which was as absolute as his own self-confidence. To younger scholars, especially, this combination was irresistible. In turn, Kazhdan was perhaps most disconcerted by the way individuals chopped up his subject in the West; he goaded younger ones to collaborate on his grand projects. Perhaps Dumbarton Oaks was too soft a bed. Kazhdan offered academic beds which became harder the closer one got to him. Musya bottled berries for the bruised.

quenter of the Cosmopolitan Club in Washington. He preferred breakneck rambles to the Potomac Falls. Could the new generation of students keep up those he had taken mushrooming in the Moscow woods, where his roots ran deepest.

Kazhdan was not a great fre-

Gladstone, another candidly confident giant, wished to die in church, somehow without disturbing others. Kazhdan died by the swimming pool at Dumb-arton Oaks. He might have chosen the place, and his wish to disturb Byzantinists still abed will be seen to by his students.

Anthony Bryer Alexander Petrovich Kazhdan. Byzantine historian; born Moscow 3 September 1922; married 1944 Rimma (Musya) Ivanskaya (one son); died Dumfor the congress in Athens ei-ther. Udaltsova said he was ill. May 1997. barron Oaks, Washington DC 29

was not of the politician but of

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

HOWE: Dr Stephen Henry, on 30 Mar, died suddenly and unexpectedly in Cambridge. Dr Howe, aged to, is survived by his wife. Maxine Howe, and belowed daughter Robin, and his long-time partner Linda. Funeral service will be held at Fulbourn Cemetery. Cambridgeshire, at 11.30am, on Friday 6 June 1997. Contact Mr Brigh Wirner, Emerglia Contact Mr Brian Warner, Funeral

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriana) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lon-don E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 0171-293 2012) or fased to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette auments (notices, functions, Forth coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMEN'S The Queen imposts the Yound in Boad-inghim Palacet, and alreads Readers Relicated by the Gunnel in March Banks of the Household Deviation on Household Deviation of the Williams of the Wallshall Plan at the Valie-and Bushing Muscowski Household Plan at the Valie-and Bushing Muscowski Household Calin Valie-and Wallshams Household Calin Valie-and Stadium, Household and the Revised Household Calin Valies California and Household Planthamson of the Wallshamson of the Wallsh

composer, 1826; Francisco Pancho Marun, Hartiepred Chreland and Joan IDES In-consider and altends a concert in Ripen Cathedral, Ripon, North behalm. The Princess Royal, Patent He Bane, Skills Agency presents the Secondary Schrob Qualty Mark Progration at Rockingham Palace as Patron, the Development Breat to the Men-tally Handicapped; attends a resign to mark the Handicapped; attends a respirate to mark the Handicapped; attends a respirate to mark the Handicapped; attends a respirate his mark to Handicapped; attends a respirate his mark to Handicapped; attends a respirate his mark to Patron. National Association of Vectors Support Schoots: describe 19th enemy of the describ Breat Church House, Lender SWI, as From, the Base Sulfa Agency, presents the Secondary Schools Quality Mark

mist, 1883; Dame Ivy Compton-Burnett, novelist, 1884; Federico Garcia Lorca, poet and playwright, 1898; Barbara Goolden, novelist, 1900; Gilbert Charles Harding, television personality, 1907. Deaths: St Boniface, apostle of Germany, murdered 755; Louis X, King of France, 1316; Orlando Gibbons, composer man of Ash, 80; the Very Kev Kerry Goulstone, Dean of St Asaph Cathe-dral, 61; Mr David Hare, playwright, 50; Miss Rose Hill, actress and singer, 83; Sir Jack Jacob QC, former Senior Master of the Supreme Court, 89; Miss Julie Kirkbride MP, 37; Sir and organist, 1625; Carl Maria Friedrich Ernst Weber, Baron von Weber, composer, 1826; Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, sculptor, 1915; Horatio Herbert, first Earl Kitchener Andrew Kirkwood, High Court judge, 53; Mr Phil Neale, cricketer, 43; Mr Nigel Rees, author, 53; Mr Jef-frey Rooker MP. Minister of Stale. of Khartoum, field marshal, lost at sea 1916; Georges-Leon Jules-Marie Feydeau. playwright, 1921; Elijah Beardsworth, world quick-shaving champion, 1939. On this day: the hot-air balloon was first demonstrated by the Montgolfier brothers, 1783; a republican insurrection took place in Paris, 1832; the Ambassadors Theatre, London, opened, 1913; Ramsay MacDonald formed a minority Labour government in Britain, 1929; George Catlett Marshall, US Secretary of State, outlined his "Mar-shall Plan" to assist Europe, 1947; the Six Day War between the Arab states and Israel broke out, 1967; Robert Francis Kennedy, US senator, was shot by an assassin, dying 25 hours later, 1968; after being closed from

the time of the 1967 Arab-Israeli War,

the Suez Canal was opened to all but

Israeli shipping, 1975; Britain's first referendum was held - it resulted in a two-to-one majority in favour of staying in the Common Market, 1975; in the United States, the Teton Dam collapsed, flooding a wide area, and killing over a 100 people, 1976: Mikhail Gorbachev received the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize, 1991. Today is the Fenst Day of St Boniface of Mainz or Crediton, St Dorotheus of Tyre, St Sanctius or Sancho and St

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Baptists (i): paintings by Michelan-gelo and Andrea del Sarto", Ipm. Victoria and Albert Museum Catherine Wilson, "Maiolica"

Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood. "Developments in European Sculp-ture 1880-1935", 1pm. British Museum: Valerie Holman, Parisian Printmaking in the Age of Cubism", 1.15pm National Portrait Gallery: Clare

Gittings. "The Pursuit of Beauty", 1.10pm. London School of Economics, London WC2; Professor Stephen A.

Ross, "Behavioural Finance - a sceptical view", 5.30pm. Royal Society, London SW1 (Clifford Paterson Lecture): Professor Gareth Parry, "From Electrons and Photons to Optoelectronics and Photomes"

Changing of the Guard

Safeway could not be compelled to trade

Ltd v Argyll Stores (Holdings) Ltd; House of Lords (Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Hoffman, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord

specifically performed.

Clyde) 21 May 1997 An order for specific performance of a covenant in a lease, which effectively obliged the

tenant to carry on his business. should not have been made. The House of Lords reversed the decision of the Court of Appeal ordering spe-cific performance by Argyll would not be made. (Holdings) Ltd of a covenant

in a lease of supermarket premises in the Hillsborough Shopping Centre in Sheffield. Argyll had decided in August 1995 to close their Safeway supermarket in the shopping centre because it was losing money. That was a breach of a covenant in the lease, which supervision by the court. positively obliged them to keep the premises open for retail

trade during the usual hours of Argyll admitted the breach and in an action by the landlord the Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd, consented to an order for damages to be assessed. The Court of Appeal,

reversing the trial judge, ordered that the covenant be Jonathan Caunt QC and Martin

LAW REPORT 5 June 1997

Seurward (Timus Sainer Dechen) for was the quasi-criminal proce-Argil; Peter W. Smith QC and Paul dure of punishment for con-Chaisty (B.K.I. Lewis, Munchester) for tempt. The prospect of

Lord Hoffman said that the trial judge had refused to order specific performance. He had said that there was, on the authorities, a settled practice that orders which would require a defendant to run a business

There was no dispute about the existence of the practice to which the judge had referred: see Braddon Towers Ltd v International Stores Ltd [1987] I EGLR 209. The most frequent reason given for declining to make such an order was that it would require constant

There had been some misunderstanding about what that meant. Supervision would, in practice, take the form of rulings by the court as to whether there had been a breach of the order. It was the possibility of the court having to give an indefinite series of such rulings in order to ensure the execution of the order which had

been regarded as undesirable. The only means available to the court to enforce its order tion in the present case could

committal or even a fine, with the damage to commercial rep-utation which would be caused by a finding of contempt was likely to have undesirable consequences,

The Court of Appeal had regarded the practice followed by the judge as outmoded, and had treated Lord Wilherforce's remarks about relief against forciture in Shiloh Spinners Ltd v Harding [1973] AC 691, at 724, as justifying a rejection of the arguments based on the need for constant supervision. However. Lord Wilherforce's remarks did not support that proposition in relation to specific performance of an obligation to carry on an activity, and the arguments based on difficulty of supervision remained

powerful, The Court of Appeal had said that it was enough if the there was no element of contract defined the tenant's personal breach of faith. obligation with sufficient precision to enable him to know what was necessary to comply with the order. Even assuming that to be right, his Lordship did not think that the obliga-

possibly be regarded as sufficiently precise to be capable of specific performance.

The Court of Appeal had also thought that, once Argyll had been ordered to comply with the covenant, it was "inconceivable that they would not operate the business efficiently", but it was wrong for the courts to speculate about whether Argyll might voluntarily carry on business in a way which would relieve the court form having to construe its or-der. The question of certainty must be decided on the assumption that the court might have to enforce the order according to its terms.

All three judges in the Court of Appeal had taken a very poor view of Argyil's conduct. Although any breach of covenant was regrettable, how-ever, the exercise of the discretion whether or not to grant specific performance started from the fact that the covenant had been broken. The interests of both parties in the present case were purely financial:

No criticism could be made of the way the judge had exercised his discretion. The Court of Appeal should not have

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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BELOW TO THE RESERVE

California de Caractería d

Banish all the dishonourable honours nder the Tories the stables got into an unpleasant state. It is going to take Labour some time to muck them out. As an introduction to its work in cleansing British public life, the abandonment of honours to MPs for political service is welcome. But there is much more to be done, to modernise and rationalise the effulgent growth in recent years of decorations, gongs, places, preferments and petits douceurs. And the place to start is the honours system.

case for identifying individuals who have conspicuously served the public and giving them some title or label as such as the Order of Merit which are a sign of general thanks. But more important than the process by which the honour is delivered are the criteria of merit. Most recipients of the "lesser" honours, at present the Members and Commanders of the British Empire, are ordinary people who have been identified by neighbours or local authorities as distinctly worthy. Those are honourable honours. People work hard running Scout troops. Some slave on behalf of voluntary organisations. Others, paid public servants, stand out in the local mind as performers above and beyond the call of duty. Britain needs to have a scheme by which preferably by means of local nomination - such people can be distinguished. Pay is not the only mark of success, or

rewards can strengthen the bonds of civil society.

But such a scheme has no need of the pseudo-medieval flummery which surrounds British honour-giving. As long as Britain remains a monarchy, the agent for dispensing the gong will be the Queen and her successors. But a clear distinction has to be made between the monarch's personal awards and honours of state. In the former category are those royal honours Let's first say clearly there is a strong ans for their people of the bedchamcreated by the Stuarts and Hanoveribers, horse-groomers, maids-in-waiting in the sovereign's personal gift. His-torically speaking, the dividing line is around 1900. After that date the "royal" orders were created for political purposes: it is no coincidence that the great boom in orders of chivalry occurred when the corrupt David Lloyd George was prime minister.

Queen Elizabeth is not to be blamed for the profligacy of her grandfather in creating imperial orders, sashes and decorations. In an ideal world the Order of the British Empire would be replaced by something more fitting to a 21st century secular culture with no imperial aspirations. But if the orders are kept, the important thing is to ensure that the recipients deserve the honour. Here is where Labour should



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2485 / 0171-845 2485

up that certain kinds of public official, specifically civil servants, expect to get certain kinds of honour. A deputy secretary in Whitehall (grade II) expects to get a Companionship of Honour after a certain number of years. Knighthoods come to permanent secretaries like manna from heaven, just as promotions in the order of St Michael and St George come to diplomats as they move embassies. It is ridiculous.

It also subverts the principle on which all organisations, let alone public service organisations should operate - all staff, so long as they are propshould not be. These alternative direct its attention. The habit has grown erly treated and decently paid, should

give of their best as a matter of course. Once it might have been true that honours were a substitute for adequate payment for civil servants. Nowadays Whitehall staff are reasonably paid.

Honours that come automatically from tenure of a place or position, that go with the job, whether to under-secretaries, chairs of quangos or egregiously loyal backbench Tory MPs, are sometimes a mild dishonour. Why? Because they can encourage timidity and creepy conformity in a society which needs neither. How many civil servants (or vice chancellors for that matter) have "kept their noses clean", not "rocked the boat" in order not to offend and so be struck off the list of nominees for honour?

Labour needs to do two things. One is to carry forward the process of reform begun, to his credit, by John Major. The public has been let in and its role in nominations and selections should be expanded. Why shouldn't people be asked about suitable candidates? Meanwhile the process of decision in which names are tossed between civil servants and politicians should be scrutinised. The criteria applied by the honours-givers should be clear and public. They also need to be elastic, since those who finally decide need some discretion. Performing artists and sports people pose problems. It would be invidious to exclude all actors and soccer players from inclusion even though to give a gong to all full-backs who do charita-ble work would be to exhaust the stock

of medals pretty quickly. The second is to review the honours themselves. Just as too many people get honours simply because of the job they hold, so there are also too many honours, a great dusty hierarchy that progresses upwards in degrees so complex that it takes a Roy Strong to find them interesting. Just what does a Knight Commander-hood mean on the eve of the 21st century? A government which has promised to purge the upper chamber of parliament of the for green fuel.

hereditary principle should have no compunction about phasing out titles. There will always be - we hope - company directors, entrepreneurs, scientists, public servants, even MPs, who shine in the public's eye, whose merit is undeniable, whose contribution to the life and work of the country is outstanding. Some form of government recognition is appropriate. But let it be a modern and modest honour, a source of quiet pride, and not the tinkling anachronism of sirs and dames.

A sparky idea from the greens

Green campaigners have too often sought prohibitions and government intervention to secure their often admirable ends, instead of working with the grain of public opinion and consumer choice. Yesterday's proposal by the World Wide Fund for Nature to allow consumers to choose electricity generated from renewable sources is a good one. When supply is deregulated there is no technical or commercial reason why households should not specify the notional source of the power they use. Companies such as SWEB are on board. The next test will be the willingness of the public to pay a little extra

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Irish famine lessons still to be learnt

Sir: Ruth Dudley Edwards' criticism of Tony Blair's "apology" for British government inaction during the Irish famine (3 June) owes more to "revisionist" wishful thinking than historical accuracy.

She would have done better to have consulted the words of the responsible ministers and administrators than rely on the self-deceiving dogmatism of James Wilson, Lord Lieutenant Clarendon repeatedly berated his colleagues for allowing the Irish poor to die in droves; Prime Minister Russell denounced the "crude Trevelyanism" of the Treasury and British middle-class opinion that refused the (relatively modest) sums necessary to purchase relief supplies in 1847-9; and, most damning, Chief Poor alawa da 💝 🐌 Law Commissioner Edward Twisleton resigned in March 1849 on the grounds that "the destitution here is so horrible, and the indifference of the House of Commons to it is so manifest, that he is an unfit agent of a policy that must be one of extermination".

Unfortunately James Wilson's obsessive view that the famine had been sent to reform the Irish character, and that state aid would impede such a desirable outcome, was widespread in British public opinion and within the weak and divided Whig administration. Not all could have been saved, but, in the view of many contemporaries, hundreds of thousands perished needlessly as a consequence of government neglect.

Tony Blair's carefully chosen words, which acknowledge a great historical wrong, should be welcomed. They are in accord with the sophisticated understanding of the meaning of the Famine that President Mary Robinson has done so much to promote in Ireland in the last two years. It is regrettable that "revisionist" polemics - as outdated and unbalanced in their own way as the ultra-nationalist rhetoric of "genocide" - should be directed against such a positive step towards a new Anglo-Irish relationship. Dr PETER GRAY

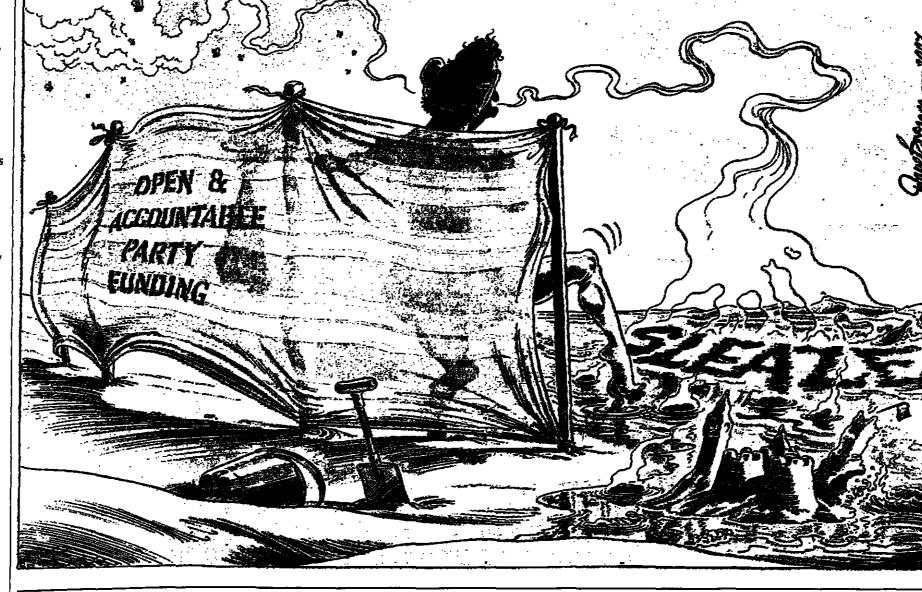
Department of History University of Southampton

Sir: Even in 1933 only 1.4 per cent of the population of Ireland owned all the land. The Irish people were robbed of their birthright by the rapacious landlords who governed the nation, the same members of parliament who, by passing some 1000 Enclosure Acts, dispossessed the vast majority of the British people. The Irish had no way to sustain life once the potato blight had destroyed the only crop they could attempt to grow in the miserable marginal land to which they had been driven.

Little has changed except that today the welfare state ensures that starvation no longer kills our people. Throughout Africa, Asia, Central and South America the same land-tenure system that starved the Irish 150 years ago threatens the lives of many millious. NORMANH SLATER.

Rossendale, Lancashire Sir: Ruth Dudley Edwards is too complacent about the causes of the

Famine is often the result not of Irish famine. an absence of food but of the inability of many people to buy what is available. That was so in



Ireland's case: only one crop, the potato, failed; and during the amine, food was being exported from Ireland.

It has been said that there has never been a famine in a democracy. The famine in Ireland was not caused by "desperately bad luck", nor even by a fungus, but by a political system that kept a large majority of its inhabitants desperately poor. That political system was largely the creation of Énglishmen. MARTIN SMITH

Sir: One can cut through a lot of fruitless argument about the potato famine by asking a simple question: would the government of the day have stood idly by while a million English peasants died and a further million and a half were forced into emigration? If not, there is a case to answer. NICK MARTIN-CLARK London WC1

Oxford

Blair's impartial Civil Service

Sir: Your leading article of 2 June is rightly dismissive of the charge of politicisation of the Civil Service made against the incoming Labour government. Despite all the hullabaloo, all the Government has done is to increase slightly the number of special advisers and to strengthen the political control at Number 10, so lacking under John Major, by appointing two political advisers with executive powers. In contrast to Mrs Thatcher, who politicised civil servants by enticing them to become her personal aides, Tony Blair has made it clear from

the start that his press secretary, Alastair Campbell, and his chief of staff, Jonathan Powell, are political appointees who would have to leave if the Labour government is

voted out. The real questions about the Civil Service are the following. First, are they in a position to give impartial advice to ministers? I understand that the Prime Minister has sent a memorandum to the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, stressing the importance of the policy advice role of the Civil

Second, are they prepared to carry out swiftly and efficiently ministerial decisions? On this point, the Civil Service is to be congratulated on the smoothness of the handover from a Conservative government which

had been in power for 18 years. Third, are civil servants protected from being required to act in a manner which is unconstitutional, improper or unethical? Since 1995, the Civil Service code, drafted by the Treasury Civil Service Select Committee, has given civil servants the protection of an independent appeals procedure covering these matters.

Lastly, are civil servants as open and as helpful as possible to Parliament, especially when giving evidence to select committees? The resolution on ministerial accountability, drafted by the Public Service Select Committee and overwhelmingly adopted by the House, makes it clear that civil servants have an obligation to

provide full and accurate information to Parliament. GILES RADICE MP (Durham North, Lab) House of Commons London SW1

Sir: You are correct when you argue (leading article, 2 June) that it is time for a politicisation of the Civil Service. However this should not involve merely the appointment of more special advisers. There should be a thorough review of the structures of policy formation.

Policy advisers, who are not integrated into the command structure, can be undermined by the Civil Service. An improvement would be the European Union's ministerial cabinet system. This places the political advisers in direct command of the departmental civil servants. GRAHAM RICHARDS London EC2

PR timetable

Sir: The Labour MEP Michael Elliott (Letters, 29 May) is illinformed as well as out of touch with his reforming government.

No other EU member state or applicant would dream of abandoning PR for the European Parliament. Regional lists, as agreed between Mr Elliott's party leadership and the Liberal Democrats, retain (and make more sense of) the constituency link with

the MEP. And it is perfectly possible to introduce PR in Great Britain in time for the next elections in 1999. The Federal Trust has just produced a rather good pamphlet, by Lord Plant and Michael Steed, which sets out in detail what should

he done and how.
What is needed in July is a White
Paper on the matter. Before then, at Amsterdam, the European Union should add the phrase "in time for the 1999 elections" to the relevant Article 138(3) of the treaty that prescribes a uniform electoral procedure for the European Parliament.

It would not be the first time that British constitutional history had been made by the Dutch. ANDREW DUFF Director, Federal Trust London SWI

New-found quote

Sir: Federico Andahazi ("The anatomy of desire", 3 June), is not the first writer to be censored for using Mateo Colon's "Oh, My America, my sweet newly-found land" as the starting point for a work of erotic literature. John Donne did so in c1633 and was refused a licence to print the poem in question, "To his Mistress Going to Bed":

O my America, my new found land My kingdom safeliest when with one man manned JENNY SWANN Altrincham, Cheshire

Sir: Mateo Colon did not discover the clitoris; he rediscovered it.

Sir: In your article on the Lottery (30 May) you list the membership of Camelot's remuneration committee. Against the names of my male colleagues you indicate of each, but when you come to me the only information, apart from

When a newspaper makes it so clear that who I am married to is more important than anything else about me - my educational background as a former teacher or my business experience over 23 years (board member of Thames Television and of Barclays Bank, chairman of the London Tourist Board, president of Women in Management) - then they are either implying that I am not qualified to hold this job or are infringing journalistic good

Women are going to go on

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MARY BAKER Non-executive Director of Camelot Group plc London SWI

Sir: Peter Mitchell's letter (2 June) in support of the "Camelot fat cats" misses the point. If these directors managed a large multinational such as ICL or any business operating in a free market, then, yes, they would be entitled to receive reward for their endeavours. However, since there has been no national lottery that has not made money that I am aware of, and competition is minimal, I would suggest that if they were not able to make a

directors of the monopolistic water and power companies. They are paid vast salaries for a job they would have been paid significantly less for in pre-privatisation days. What has changed in the business that justifies their pay hike?

meritocracy, to the benefit of the consumer, instead of this corporate

greed. ALISTAIR CRAIG Croydon, Surrey

Juvenal mentions it in his sixth

is crista, which also means a cock's comb. The word clitoris

(Greek) was invented by the

anatomist Rufus shortly after

Off the shelves

Sir: In "Mapping out the best of the

books" (31 May), Debbie Davies makes a point of saying that Terry

Praichett's *Hogfather* was 25th in

the fiction list a few weeks ago with

sales of 199 books. But what is her

This title was published in early

consecutive weeks. Gollancz's sales

of Hogfather are now in excess of

130,000, and still to sell several

hardback fiction title more than

seven months after publication

suggests longevity rather than some

Worm in the ear

Sir: Today I found myself humming

"Una Paloma Blanca" on the way

to the office. I can only conclude

that I have been intected with an

June). Is science aware of this

KEITH WILLIAMSON

Orpington.

earworm from your letters page (3

method of contagion? I think you

should be more careful in future.

hundred copies a week of a

Colin Smythe Ltd, Publishers

form of fraud.

Gerard's Cross,

Buckinghamshire

COLIN SMYTHE

November and topped the

hardcover fiction list for five

Juvenal. GRAEME FIFE

London NW7

satire (c. AD116). The Latin work

profit, why shouldn't all gambling be? And what about the rest of the leisure industry? For that matter, shouldn't we do something about profits from all other commercial undertakings? Indeed, what about the public ownership of all means of production? PAUL DANON

Ooh aah ...

Cantona and his desire to register as a trademark the "Ooh Aah ... chant have shown up a great deal of ignorance of the origin of this chant. In the mid 1980s Irish football fans coined the chant "Ooh aah, Paul McGrath" and it was frequently heard at Lansdowne Road during Irish home games. If anyone has the right to this chant it is Paul McGrath, Incidentally, it's a handy way of learning to pronounce his surname properly. DERMOT NOLAN Mount Merrion,

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

Camelot post was no lottery

the work or commercial experience my age, that you give is the name of my spouse and what his former job

practice on equality.

chieving senior positions despite being married to men with a high

sizeable profit then they should give up.

This argument also holds for the

Let's hope New Labour can encourage a little more

Sir: If the lottery must be non-London W3

Sir: The reports about Eric Co Dublin Ireland

Safe in the long arms of the law?

Sexual victimisation of women police officers is still rife, as evidenced by the number of formal complaints being brought. And the usual channels for redress are failing, says Patricia Wynn Davies

uestion: what kind of a man takes a pride in arranging plastic penises on a woman's car and attaching condoms

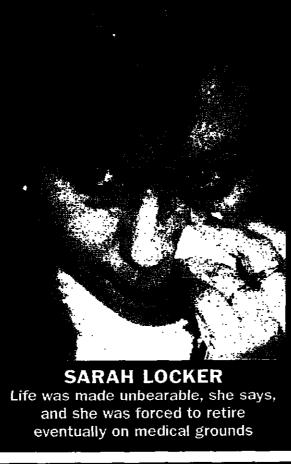
What makes him hide a bag of prawns in her desk drawer to go rancid, creating a smell so bad that a "dirty squad" has to be brought in to fumigate the

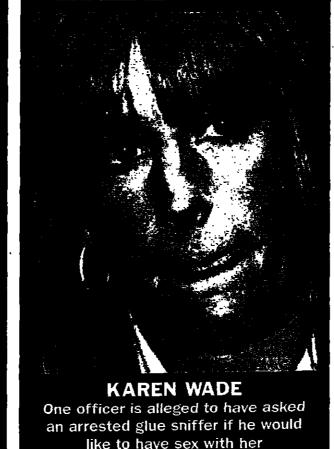
What sort of men push a truncheon between a woman's legs when she bends down in the meal queue to retrieve something from the floor, then take a photograph and pin it up in the office? Or put up posters of women colleagues saying: "I fart in bed", "I could shag you", or "I'm available for a

shag"? Yes, male police officers, those guardians of safety and security the public is supposed to trust. These examples are from real-life experiences of women officers eventually driven to lodge complaints of sexafraid to speak out for fear of compromising their jobs or gagged from doing so in return for out-of-court settlements.

Why? Aside from the traditional rationalisation - the one about the "macho" culture being part of the business of hardening up officers - this remains the big unanswered question. What we do know, and what police chiefs are having to come to terms with, is that barely a week goes by without a full-scale sex discrimination case in an industrial tribunal somewhere around the country - while the current level of outof-court payouts from taxpayers' money could be hundreds of thousands of pounds.

It should all be of the greatest concern to a service that talks the language of equality but where women still account for only around 14 per cent of officers (108,642 men; 18,209 women, according to the latest figures). And the attitude of some forces appears to be hardening, with a greater tenual harassment, women too dency to insist that women







handed disciplinary notices after they supported her against sex discrimination

complainants prove each and every aspect of their allegations in an industrial tribunal rather than settling or mediating complaints and concentrating on tackling the underlying causes.

To the sexual tormentor's stock-in-trade - sexual taunts, innuendo, unwanted advances and physical assaults - are added more insidious forms of harassment, such as interfering with a woman officer's paperwork, arranging for files or case papers to go missing and, as female officers begin moving up the ranks, victimising women who gain promotion.

ual harassment." The problem is bad enough Tina Martin, chairman of

Women Police and a former Metropolitan Police officer, who has helped a number of women pursue complaints, says: "We now have the phenomenon of PDSD - prolonged duress stress disorder brought about by the undermining effect of low-level sex-

for the number of complaints in the Metropolitan Police area to have reached three figures since January this year, and the Police Complaints Authority has launched its first investigation into how the Lincolnshire force handled a discrimination complaint from a high-flying woman inspector at Gainsborough police station, Dena Fleming.

Of the cases currently being heard in tribunals, Inspector Fleming's is far and away the most controversial. Nottingham tribunal has already heard how her fate was sealed when one of the male officers she believed had been conspiring against her discovered a tape recorder she had placed in her locker to record colleagues. She was immediately suspended and disciplinary pro-ceedings begun against her.

the British Association of She claims she was ostracised and harassed by male officers who resented her promotion after only two years' experience as a sergeant and her attempts to introduce changes. Her husband Max, a former

Lincolnshire officer, and friends Sergeant Nick Proctor and Constable Chris Wright, have lodged victimisation claims against the force over disciplinary notices that were handed to them after they gave Insp Fleming their support. Sgt Proctor has told the tribunal that in his 17 years as a police officer he had never witnessed such an orchestrated campaign of hate against a colleague. While judgment is not

expected until the autumn, the story as told by Insp Fleming. one of only 200 women inspectors from a total of 5,200, and her witnesses does not make happy reading. Internal documents before the tribunal described one senior officer as being "obsessed" with her downfall. He was also alleged to have spread rumours about Insp Fleming having an affair when there was no evidence to support them. Giving evidence in the witness box, Insp Fleming said her briefcase had been

rifled, her paperwork moved and letters opened. She felt there was a conspiracy against her by officers who disliked her methods, while her superiors did nothing to support her. One of the conspirators, she told the tribunal, had offered her a sexual relationship. Senior detectives from Nottinghamshire have complained to the tribunal that an investigation into claims of evidence tampering in the Fleming case

had been obstructed by officers

they were probing. Female officers in Lincolnshire, as elsewhere, have felt obliged to set up an underground network to help women officers cope with the stress of sexual victimisation. But the network was swiftly labelled the "Witches' Coven", or the "Dykes' Group" by male offi-cers, says Jane Kitchen, a Lincolnshire Police Federation representative. Ms Kitchen, who has also put her job and promotion prospects on the line by testifying in the Fleming case, told the Nottingham tribunal how the Lincolnshire force went from having a full-time equal opportunities offi-

destructive use in other situations, hence the instances of harassment and bullying of men that go unresolved. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, last October.

week. "As soon as Dena sought advice she was cold-shouldered. She was left with barely an office and telephone," says

There is another dimension: the federation, the union for officers up to and including inspectors, routinely offers financial and legal support to officers defending themselves against claims of harassment or other forms of discrimination, but applies a cost/reward analysis before deciding whether to back the complainant. Women complainants who want to get the harassment stopped and carry on with their jobs (the majority), rather than leaving the force and accepting com-pensation, often fail this test.

The policy has led Karen Wade - who recently won the right at the Employment Appeal Tribunal to a new industrial tribunal hearing against West Yorkshire police - to begin a sex discrimination claim against the federation for refusing to support her when she first brought her case. She claims she endured months of sexual taunts by officers - one of whom, she alleges, asked an arrested glue sniffer if he would

like to have sex with her. In London, Sarah Locker has gone to court twice after complaining of race and sex discrimination. She is claiming that the Metropolitan Police reneged on part of an out-ofcourt settlement in which she received £35,200 and a promise of retraining as a detective. She said colleagues made life unbearable, forcing her to retire on medical grounds.

The forces protest that they have taken steps to root out troublemakers and discipline them. Supt Glyn Lewis, a national executive member of the Police Superintendents Association of England & Wales, says: "The issue is firmly on our agenda. In most police stations and divisions staff are constantly reminded about the way they should behave. I think

the problem will be solved." But Jackie Cole, the Police Federation representative for women officers in the Met, has a diary crammed with appointments with victims. She despairs of the conduct of the minority. "It it was their wives or daughters in the firing line they would go bloody bonkers."

The supposed justifications for ignoring the reactions of a female colleague to unwanted attentions and downplaying the seriousness of complaints are legion. Officers need to be knocked into shape to prepare for potential abuse from the public; "horseplay" is simply a way of relieving pressure. The adage, deeply ingrained in all the service professions, that you don't complain if you know what's good for you runs deep. And the underlying philosophy of team "loyalty", whatever the cost, is put to equally

The most recent report of painted a grim picture of a problem not yet fully grasped. Sexism, racism, barriers to pro-

Sunnecessary: says motion and discriminatory bullying are still rife in the police,

The report, like everybody else in the service with an opinion on the subject, urged "per-spective" - as Jackie Cole puts it, "there are some smashing guys in the force". But it conchided: "There is a continued and unacceptable level of racist and sexist banter. While more covert and subtle than before, it is nevertheless destructive."

The police service has yet to prove it is really tackling the ssue. Nobody has confidence

in force grievance procedures.
As the Fleming case has proved, it takes guts for male officers to speak up for female colleagues who have lodged complaints. Once station pressure sparked by a harassment incident begins to build up, a woman may be left with no alternative but to launch what should be a last resort, an industrial claim. Once launched, however, that same pressure - of the "that wouldn't really be in your interests" kind - can lead to the collapse of crucial testimony and

Such a scenario is the precise opposite of what most women complainants want, says Ms Cole. "Most women simply want the harassment to stop, for it to be recognised and then stop, so that they can carry on with their jobs. They don't want a confrontation.

Typically, the victim is likely to be attractive and have refused "offers", and according to officers handling complaints, the trouble often comes from within the ranks of officers seeking promotion. A perpetrator might "stalk" his victim, perhaps a young probationer worried about being accepted by the boys, with a barrage of propositions, suggestive remarks, "love" notes, queries about the wearing of clean knickers. Others are serial

The party piece of one officer in charge of a control room: was to go along the line of women undoing their bras while they were handling calls. When one distraught woman took to wearing a body instead. he responded by ringing her when she was dealing with pris oners to ask what colour flowers she liked. The man has been moved and a woman inspector is acting as mentor to

the women he has harassed. Last November, three Met officers were forced to resign after two of them handcuffed a female officer while the third put his hand up her pullover and touched her breasts.

Allegations of sexual harassment within the North Yorkshire force have led to two separate inquiries into out-ofcourt payouts coupled with nopublicity clauses.

If the police service cannot stamp out this kind of harassment, what chance is there for women to secure their fair share of the better jobs, working practices that take more account of family responsibilities and promotions. It leaves Jackic Cole feeling a mixture of anger and sadness. "The sheer stupidity of the behaviour makes me furious.

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It's enough to drive you to Nuits-St-Georges

cer between May 1993 and

March 1994 to a "consultant"

available one or two days a

was on the point of telling you yesterday how I had ended up in a car on the top of a roundabout in Northern Ireland. Well, I was over in Belfast with the group Instant Sunshine at the Belfast Festival, playing two concerts at the Elmwood Hall (which, incidentally, is pronounced in Northern Ireland as if it were named after someone called L M Wood). One concert was in the afternoon and one late in the evening, and our sponsors for the event, the local milk marketing board, had decided to take us out for dinner between the two concerts. It is always a bad idea for performers to eat or drink much before a concert, but the chaps from the Milk Marketing Board were not really thinking of us - they were determined to get a good dinner for themselves and would not take no for an

So we were whisked out of Belfast and given a slap-up dinner, at which the sponsors ate and drank mightily and we hardly touched anything, and on the way back our host, now full of wine, failed to spot an approaching

drove straight up the central grassy mound and stopped on top, with the car looking for all the world like some crazy bit of modern sculpture. There was a pause and then he turned round and said genially: "Sorry about that. but I swear that roundabout came a good 200 yards earlier than usual ..."

That is an example of what Claud Cockburn once called the kind of fey logic peculiar to the Irish. But everyone in the world drives with their own kind of crazy logic, crazy at least to the outsider. The Italians, in our eyes, tend to drive as if they are in the later stages of a grand prix race. I was once overtaken by an Italian, near Naples, in the middle of a traffic jam. The traffic had been motionless for five minutes.

Suddenly it eased forward 10 yards. I was slow to react. In a flash, the man behind me had whipped past and eased into his new position, having gained all of two

seconds and a lot of pride. In an Indian city, once, I was being driven by a taxi driver with whom I would no doubt have had an interesting



Miles Kington

conversation if we had been able to hear ourselves over the incessant hooting which indian drivers practise. The hooting rose to a climax at a big crossing which one policeman was altempting to control like an orchestral conductor embarking on a fiendishly difficult new contemporary composition, Suddenly he strode over to our taxi and pointed at the driver, who was patiently waiting for a way to clear.

You have got a horn, haven't you?" he shouted at him. "Then use it!"

Extraordinary. But no more extraordinary than what happens in South America in Peru, at least, which is the only Latin American country I have knowledge of - where red lights are treated as cautions, nothing more. You only stop at a red light if nothing is coming the other way. Otherwise, you slow down a bit, then go through. Contrast this with traffic lights in Britain which turn red and then stay red. Stay red for five minutes, maybe. Have you noticed that British drivers will wait for red lights to change long after they know they must be stuck, and yet they still will not edge out, preferring to hope against hope that they may still change?

How one squares that image of the ultra-cautious British driver with the new growth of road rage I am not sure, though I suspect that the tight-lipped control of one leads straight to the unbuttoned fury of the other. A nation that is used to sitting tight behind the wheel and furning in silence has no mechanism for expressing rage. We don't have a set of gestures, a ritual of shrugging, hand-waving and fist-flinching

violence, so I suspect that when we snap we go straight from cold reserve to nose-

punching.

How the French fit into all this, I am not sure, though I was once very impressed by their forethought at the Place de l'Opéra in Paris. There is a particularly busy traffic build-up there, full of the chance of an accident, and I noticed that they had a big hite van parked in one corne labelled "Blood Transfusion Unit", which I assumed had been placed there in

anticipation of an accident. Alas, I was wrong, a French friend told me. It was just

taking blood donations.
"If it had been waiting for an accident," he told me later, "it should have been a Wine Transfusion Unit. Most French people do not know their blood group, but we all know our wine group. I, for instance, have a card in my wallet in case of accident which says: This man is

Nuits-St-Georges positive'. I think he was joking. Good heavens, Does this mean the French have a sense of humour after all? But that is another story.

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Campaigners who blend reason with grandstanding

Greenpeace's call for a ban on all oil exploration is unnecessary, says Richard D North

ichael Meacher, the environment minister at the Deputy Prime Minister's vast new environment-throughtransport department, hinted yesterday at the latest area of bad behaviour upon which his Government was casting a mordant eye. Defending the world against the worst effects of global warming and climate change will require, he told a World Wide Fund for Nature conference, "real changes in the way we travel and use energy, both at home and at work". He stuck to the New Labour manifesto promise to up the ante slightly on the previous administration's promise to reduce emissions of warming gases. The proposals, even if copied around the world, will be wholly ineffective if global warming is half the beast the doomsters suppose, but at least they'll be

Mr Meacher has already been upstaged. "We have high hopes but low expectations of the new government," said Peter Melchett, Greenpeace's UK director and himself a Labour peer who was a junior minister under old Labour. He was launching the group's dramatic new campaign to stop BP developing an oil field in the deep and stormy waters just west of Shetland. "A new frontier", BP calls it, and is looking forward to seeing oil come ashore this summer.

Greenpeace calls for a self-denying ordinance from the UK which would have the waters left as a frontier against oil development. It refuses to announce its plans for marine direct action, but high jinks on the high seas can clearly be expected. Combating to cure.

Shell's dumping of Brent Spar was a huge coup; fighting to halt the New Frontier is an the New Frontier is an

irresistible successor.

The campaigners' logic is impeccable, as a new and brilliant lit- longer worth burning." He believes that contle Greenpeace film will ram home in art cinemas shortly: "Within the earth is all the oil we need to set the world on fire," it trumpets.

Chris Rose, Greenpeace's deputy director and brightest policy wonk, insists that no industrialised country that takes global warming seriously should be increasing exploration, let alone exploitation, of its fossil fuel reserves. He proposes a phasing out of fossil fuel use within 40 years, and government rules insisting that most of the reserves remain underground. He says that is the only way to spare the world suffering a massive overload of climate-forcing gases.

Nearly everyone concedes that Greenpeace has the beginnings of a point, but hardly anyone takes them seriously. Peter Kassler, now working with the energy and environmental programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, is an oil economist who used to be with Shell (which is a partner of BP's in the Atlantic frontier). Typically of the sceptics and the Department of Trade and Industry line, he says: "It's the sort of thing that has a facile appeal, but it's pretty thin. West of Shetlands oil at its best would be a marginal part of the world's oil supply. If that oil is demanded by consumers around the world it will come from somewhere else, without UK jobs and UK economic benefit. In 1997, the Middle East is relatively peaceful, but any sensible government would like to have flexibil-

But the toughest arguments Greenpeace must face come from people more obviously sympathetic to their cause, and even this campaign. Michael Grubb, a middle-of-the-road green, is putting the finishing touches to a paper which argues that governments are at risk of not noticing how relatively unimportant the world's oil and gas reserves are. "The say: fine, but there will be pressure to burn lots of coal, and it would at least help to lock up the oil and avoid the risk even more firmly. Dr Grubb suggests, rather, that the real goal would be to get the world to eschew the use of coal, which has a far greater capacity to do damage. That approach suggests that we

need all the oil we can get as a replacement. Greenpeace's game is one of alternating reasonableness and grandstanding. Cannily, Mr Rose's phase-out would give us longer to convert to non-fossil energy than the businessas-usual scenario, or even the regulatory framework now proposed. That is important: everyone agrees that, sooner or later, renewable energy and conservation must come into

By far the most influential exponent of the "soft energy" path is the American Amory Lovins, who has a tropical climate at his mile-high, solar-powered Rocky Mountain Institute in Colorado, and whose latest co-authored book, Factor Four, declares that the world could have twice its present wealth for a halving of its energy take. That is because of the power of double-glazing ("the key to inexpensive buildings is expensive windows") and new engine and fuel technologies for vehicles, among myriad other developments in which, he says, root-and-branch changes in the way we design things will solve problems we knew we might solve, and others we didn't dare hope

> "Oil is going to be rather abundant, and gas more so," he says, but most reserves will stay in the ground

ventional fuels will get cheaper and cheaper. but that renewables will overtake them and be cheaper yet. Moreover, he believes, the new wave of technologies will make renewables more convenient than conventional sources. Cars will become so clean that it will be their number, not their mess, which will pose the

Even Lovins has some sympathy with the Greenpeace view, but only in so far as he thinks that it may be wise to maintain an oil reserve. Otherwise, there is little difference between the Lovins and the emerging indus-try points of view. Shell's group chief executive and its UK managing director have both recently made speeches pointing out that Shell's planners have posited as a distinct pos-sibility a "dematerialisation" process. The name suggests something out of Star Trek, but has been coined for the kind of efficiency that would see the average earthling in 2060 using about the same amount of energy as an Italian in 1970, but living far more comfortably.

Thus Heinz Rothermund, the UK Shell boss, has pleased Greenpeace by accepting that anyone concerned about future climate change can spot the dilemma of future oil use. BP's chief executive was praised by Michael Meacher yesterday for remarks stressing that his firm has now reached the "important point" when its role as a good citizen requires it to work out the implications of being an energy company in a warming world. The campaigners have been less keen to point out that Mr Rothermund sees no contradiction between believing, as he does, that much oil may well stay in the ground because of falling demand and the viability of alternatives, and



fortunes. Why, said Ms Young, I happen to have it here, and extracted a proof copy from her clutch bag. Leafing through it, I came quite by accident upon a remarkable sex scene, in which the heroine is assailed by a nasty and bullying man with an erection, slugs him with a poker, lays him out cold and becomes unexpectedly turned on by her own counter-attack. Finding herself in possession, as it were, of an aroused membrum virile with an unconscious man on the end of it, she proceeds to have sex with it, taking a kind of revenge for all the times she has been monstered by brutal masculinity. Wiping the sweat from my brow, I congratulated Ms Young on a brilliant fantasy, "though of course," I said, "it's anatomically impossible". She bridled, as authors will. "It is not," she said. "I've talked to

doctors about it and three out of four said they couldn't y conversations with swear it wasn't possible." But other men have taken a rather smutty turn such things can't happen when you're unconscious, I this week, and all because of said. Asleep yes; out for the count, no. The nervous system packs up and ... "One Unconscious Willy. Ms Young is a phenomenally blonde doctor said it was possible if journalist and biographer, you'd killed somebody and whose first novel Baby Love is rigor mortis was setting in," published this summer. said the know-it-all Ms Meeting her at a party to wish Young, "but I had to remind bon voyage to Joanna Coles, The Guardian's gimlet-eyed him that there aren't any muscles in the penis." star feature writer who is off Blimey, I thought, aren't there? And that, I'm afraid, to become the paper's New set the tone for the week.

of the chap sitting on the next

sun-lounger along from him.

dandy-by-the-pool regalia, in a startling Ralph Lauren

creation of horizontal stripes

with matching beach shorts,

a wide-brimmed Australian

bush hat, as worn by Barry

cartoon. It took a certain

amount of neck-craning to

victim beneath was Michael

Portillo, enjoying a much-needed holiday with his wife after his upsetting experience

in the small hours of 2 May.

And how piquant to discover

reading in his north African

hideaway: volume one of

Proust's A la Recherche du

Temps Perdu, the longest

thing to embark on, when

you've several free months

stretching before you.

Louisa Young and the

York correspondent, I

enquired about the book's

novel ever published. Just the

what the great man was

establish that the fashion

McKenzie in the Sixties strip

the ensemble topped off with

a couple of weeks ago. The

man was kitted out in full



their heads and said "Aren't there?" "Are there?" and *Whereabouts exactly ...?". They talked about nerves and sinews and engorged tissue and blood and capillaries and spasm this and contraction that; and all the time they revealed, like me, an extraordinary ignorance of their most precious bits. They settled with relief into discussing Ms Young's fictional sex scene and its plausibility level. "Not a chance," said Jeremy Laurence, The Independent's magisterial medical correspondent. "Not after being hit by a poker. Now if she'd strangled him, on the other hand ..." I rang Ms Young in triumph. "Men," she said, "know nothing about it. They only know about their own willies. We meet a lot more willies than men do ..

Tou have to hand it to Madame Louise Beaudoin, Quebec's formidable Minister of Culture. When it comes to linguistic correctness, she walks off with le bourbon chocolat. When it comes to the enforced speaking of French in Canada's Francophone province, she is as unmoving as Marshal Pétain. A fascinating article by Mordecai Richler in this week's New York Times Book Review explains the extraordinary grip exerted by the French Language Charter and its various ramifications over the past 20 years. The charter's explicit goal is to make French the first language of all citizens of Quebec. And to that end, they make things as hard as possible for English speakers. Shop names have to be rendered in French. Shops whose names end with a matev apostrophe - Gerry's, Nolan's - are forced to revert to Gerry and Nolan. Road signs may be in English as well as French, provided the English version is half the size

Why, said Ms Young, I have a copy here. Leafing through it, I came upon a remarkable sex scene john walsh bilingual signs despite the recent arrival of scores of elderly, Englishonly patients after the closure of another hospital. If they lose their way in the corridors or cannot find the intensivecare ward because they don't know its French name, that's just fromage dur.
The untranslatability of certain words offers moments of amusement. One politician, as dirigiste as Mme Beaudoin, pathetically complained "I feel like a foreigner in my own country because he had seen a sign advertising Blockbuster Video, "But how do you translate 'Blockbuster Video'?" a journalist asked Mme Beaudoin, who was

stuck for a reply. Other

language police by being

smartly inventive: the word

'hamburger" in Quebec has

class sheen and renamed "lc

Old Sparky - the chair with

ut then I don't really

get it about Americans.
While the whole nation

seems to have turned into one

gigantic lynch mob, calling for

Oklahoma City bomber, to be

dragged to the electric chair

and "fried" (although lethal

federal law allows), on the

other side of the country

about how the execution

injection is the worst that the

they've come over all nervous

furniture actually works. The

a famously short fuse

Timothy McVeigh, the

been given a new middle-

linguists get past the

'Old Sparky'', has just been temporarily de-commissioned hy the Supreme Court of Florida. It's 74 years old and famously temperamental: the last hapless victim, one Pedro Medina, virtually exploded, foot-long flames shooting from his head and gobfuls of smoke pouring from under the mask on his face. A local circuit judge investigated and pronounced that there was nothing "cruel and unusual" about the Floridan chair, but while they are debating it, the chair is out of action. How extraordinary that, once you've gone so far as to sanction the death of someone judged guilty by a jury, and then elect to kill them by whacking 100,000 volts through their body, you should then get all fastidious about the chance that it might hurt a bit. The sub-text is obvious, of course – the Supreme Court just wants a chair whose effects aren't quite so disgustingly obvious to the naked eve. But when it comes to Mr McVeigh and his likely fate, they're probably the only people in the United States who do. Cruel and unusual, eh? I foresee a swift and dramatic return to popularity for "Old Sparky" at a courthouse in Denver, Colorado, very soon.

oldest electric chair in

America, folksily nicknamed

before they are allowed to simultaneously wanting to get at the rich UK reserves in the eastern Atlantic. BP agrees very make speeches in English. And she has demanded that a heartily, at least with the last bit of that. Proust and Portillo - companions in a holiday hideaway bospital take down its Europe turns left, but pragmatism rules

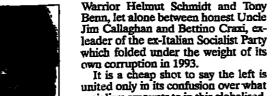
t will be quite a party today when Europe's left gathers at the Socialist International's shindig in Malmo. One of the most striking ways in which today's left differs from its hair-shirted past is its willingness to have a good time: Lionel Jospin's election night do in Paris popped as many corks as Labour's Festival Hall bash, and Germany's left are not called Tuscany

socialists for nothing. The left has plenty to celebrate. As well as Tony Blair and Lionel Jospin, the Swedes will welcome a crop of new party leaders under whom the left has come to power throughout western Europe, from Portugal to Finland. It's not just France and Britain where the right is in disarray - it is falling apart at the seams even in Germany where the Free and the Christian Democrats

are hardly on speaking terms.

But do Lionel and Tony, Oskar, Wim and Jean-Luc really have anything in common? The answer is, a lot more than their socialist predecessors did in the days they used to sing "Arise ye bond men from your slumbers". How soon was it after the foundation of the Socialist International in Montmartre in 1889 (technically speaking, the Second International, and not to be confused with the Comintern) that French socialists were unanimously supporting war credits in order to fight the Kaiser, whose own war credits had been unanimously supported by the

German Social Democrats? Donald Sassoon, author of an acclaimed history of the European left in the 20th century, notes that today's left has much more in common than it did in, say, the Seventies. What kind of conversation was ever possible between German Social Democrat and Cold



David Walker

Modern

socialism is

a way of

running

European

countries so

that they do

not become

like the

United

States

united only in its confusion over what socialism amounts to in this globalised, market-driven world. (Cheap, because the right are as dazed and puzzled about the governability of capitalism in its - Sassoon's phrase - fin de siècle turmoil.) Besides, to say socialists are confused is to restate the history of the

Once they believed capitalism would implode and, without their having to lift a finger, the workers would inherit the earth. Ramsay Macdonald's paralysis in 1931 (simply not knowing what to do when the bankers said deflate and the Treasury said cut) was shared by Rudolf Hilferding in late-Twenties Germany and Léon Blum in inter-war France.

So the history of socialism became the history of revisionism and the revisionists - take a bow Tony Blair - have not finished yet. The Germans went for congresses; at Bad Godesburg in 1959, capitalism was openly embraced. British Labour was surreptitious. Until Tony Blair junked Clause IV in 1995, it preferred keeping a formal commitment to nationalise the commanding heights even while Labour governments prostrated themselves before the International Monetary Fund.

The Eighties was a decade of ideo-logical turmoil. The Mitterand socialists in France (having abandoned a radical left programme) and Felipe González in Spain even thought that the left could somehow do liberal, freemarket economic management better with redefining socialism as a rather

than the right. Come the Nineties, the Cold War over and old enemies to the left dead or castrated, European socialism has settled into the final revision capitalism is no longer a but the mode of production. There is no alternative. but there are different ways of giving free markets a more human face.

In Germany, that means socialism becoming a kind of conservatism protecting workers' rights and welfare as much as global competitive circumstances allow. In the Netherlands and Sweden, socialism becomes welfarestate reform, something the right in those countries has proved incapable of. Socialism in, say, Spain used to be about modernisation and progress but now is in danger of being sidelined by the rise of intra-Iberian nationalism.

Modern socialism is a way of running European countries so that they do not become like the United States. It is the free-market alternative to capitalism dur et pur (the kind of thing John Redwood would like to see in Britain). It's about fairness at work, but not too much of it in case the Japanese investors hold off. It's about buying military jet fighters for which there is no obvious need, because our people need the work (in Britain) or, badgering car makers (Peugeot in France, Renault in Belgium) to keep car plants open even when domestic demand is weak.

If that sounds like "Pragmatism rules OK", it is. In Germany, the SPD accepts that coal production will shrink away to virtually nothing but wants to cushion the pain - and let the collieries live for a few more years than the Christian Democrats would.

That said, we cannot yet get away

vague and eclectic (and, it seems, electorally appealing) progressivism. To judge from Günter Grass's recent outbursts in Germany, the hardliners have not given up. There remain big national differences.

of the French one. Mme

civil servants will in future

need special authorisation

No British Labour politician would have signed up to the statement issued jointly by the French socialists and their Communist allies during the recent election, denouncing a "Europe where money is king"; not because of its un-Mandelsonian language, but because behind it lay a big idea - that European Union could be a vehicle for a "socialist" challenge to the operations of global capitalism.

Yet what the European left does have in common, above all, is jobs. That is to say, the socialist governments share the problem of what the rulers of capitalist societies can do to maximise employment without stripping workers of "social protection" when economic orthodoxy decrees flexibility.

Both the French and the British

socialists believe you can buy people jobs with public money. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the new French finance minister, promised to spend 35 billion francs to create 350,000 jobs in the public sector. He will have a political problem finding the money (while staying inside Maastricht limits) but what he is proposing is remarkably similar to British Labour's promise to find work for the young unemployed, to be paid for by that old socialist expedient of taxing big business (by the windfall tax). Perhaps the best definition of European socialism is minimal willingness to buck the liberal view that there is nothing the modern state can do, other than stand back and let the markets work their magic.



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BT bonus limit doubles to 100% of pay

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Senior British Telecom directors are set to share in the company's most generous package of bonuses since privatisation, which could in theory give Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, a total pay-out of more than £4m.

The short and long-term bonus schemes, detailed in the company's annual report sent to shareholders yesterday, represented BT's long-awaited move to put the pay of British executives on par with their counterparts in the US long-distance operator MCI, which the UK group is in the process of buying for £13bn.

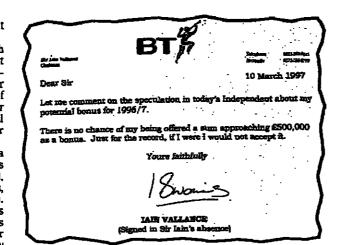
and Sir Iain Vallance, chairman, including one-off bonuses in

recognition of their work to put the MCI deal in place.

Both executives, along with the finance director, Robert Brace, have raised their annual cash bonus limit from 50 per cent of salary to 100 per cent of salary from this year, giving Sir Iain and Sir Peter the potential to be "million pound men" for the first time.

Sir Peter will also receive a discretionary bonus on top of his annual bonus of up to £500,000. payable over the next two years, if the merger goes through. The report showed Sir Peter's annual bonus for last year was £225,000, representing 45 per cent of his £498,800 basic salary last year. From this calendar year his salary rose to £570,000.

The most generous payouts are to be shared by Sir Peter, tionary" bonus of £185,000 last year in recognition of his con-tribution to the MCI deal, al-



though he had not been actually part of the formal annual

his total pay including pen-sions benefits to £698,900. From January this year Sir Iain's ba-The payout came on top of fe85,000 basic salary, taking

The payout came on top of sic salary rose to £500,000.

On 10 March Sir Iain wro

to The Independent denying he tractual matter which is prewould receive a £500,000 bonus. after a report suggested he at the moment. could receive one for the last financial year. His letter contin-

ued: "There is no chance of my being offered a sum approaching £500,000 as a bonus. Just for the record, if I were I would not accept it." It also emerged yesterday that the new contracts, with the higher bonus limits for next year, came into effect from

A BT spokesman defended the awards and gave a "cast iron" guarantee that none of the three executives would actually receive their full 100 per cent bonuses, despite the changes to scheme at the annual general

Nobody, but nobody, gets more than their 50 per cent target bonus. Not even God could get a 50 per cent bonus. The 100 per cent figure is simply a convailing in other big companies

The spokesman also said in practice that Sir Peter's two annual bonuses for this year would not exceed 100 per cent of salary, though in theory they could be worth more than £1m.
On top of the proposed an-

nual bonuses, BT unveiled a new long-term bonus package which could give Sir Peter up to six times his annual salary in shares and share options. Sir Colin Marshall, BT's deputy chairman and head of the pay committee, urged shareholders

meeting on 16 July.

The scheme, which would start from next April, has three elements. Executives can invest some of their annual bonuses in Concert shares, the new name

for the merged group, which will be matched with one additional share for every three invested at the end of three years. In addition a share option scheme would provide options worth up to four times an employee's salary. The third scheme, called "restricted share plan." gives Concert shares worth up

to twice the basic salary. Sir Peter is the only UK executive to share in all three schemes. BT said: "Peter Bonfield is chief executive of the fifth-largest UK company by market capitalisation and the fourth-largest communications company in the world. His pay does not figure in the top 10 of British chief executives. You cannot compare him with the fat cat league

BT and MCI yesterday announced a \$10bn loan facility

NFC axes up to 600 jobs in further

Magnus Grimond

NFC, the transport group which has been restructuring itself for over three years, yesterday announced a new reorganisation and disposal programme to raise £207m and axe up to 600 jobs. The shares, which have fallen from a recent high of 199p in October, added just 0.5p to 128.5p on news of the shake-up, which disappointed some City ana-

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman, said the latest round of restructuring, which will include a 🏚 E49m exceptional charge in the full year results, would be the last. Unveiling a 17 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £53.3m for the half year to March, he said NFC had achieved significant earnings growth while disposing of two big businesses where the group did not think it had a future. Sir Christopher said NFC was now out of the woods. "We can now. indeed see the wood from the

The group is selling its BRS car leasing operations to GE Capital of the US in a £120m deal, while the Lynx parcel delivery business in the UK is going to management in £34.4m buy out. The remainder of the cash being raised will come from the disposal of the remaining removals businesses of Pickfords in the US and Canada and the rationalisation of some 60 properties in the UK, which are expected to raise £30m. In addition, NFC expects to pick up £32m from relinquishing three "uneconomic" transport contracts with Whit-

bread, Homebase and Boots. Gerry Murphy, chief executive, said the exercise would liberate around £200m, of which 20 per cent would be spent on restructuring and the rest on investment in higher than average growth businesses in growing markets. The target would be to achieve rates of return in the mid to high

The reorganisation would see some 500 to 600 redundancies, 🐸 🖰 with the majority in the UK. Mr Murphy said, but precise numbers would depend on how suc- 🕻 🗈 lange cessful they were at reallocating staff. One of the casualties is Graham Roberts, currently chief executive of Continental European operations, who has resigned from the board and will leave the group at the year end. His departure follows a decision to integrate the management of the UK and Continental businesses,

where losses grew in the year. The disposals will throw up a net profit of £20m in the second half and, contributing profits of £15.5m last year, will result in some earnings dilution, NFC said. The group announced a 2.5p interim dividend and said it expected to pay a final of 5.75p, which would be the fourth year runnning the dividend has been held. Sir Christopher said the plan was to rebuild cover, with 1.7 to 2 times more typical at oth-

Eddie George worried over windfalls

Tom Stevenson Financial Editor

Eddie George said yesterday he was concerned about the potential inflationary pressures from recent building society windfalls. Speaking on the day before the first monthly meeting of the Bank of England's newly appointed monetary policy committee, the Governor warned that the estimated £30bn of handouts from the flotations represented a significant boost

to domestic spending.

His caution, coupled with a survey showing an eleventh consecutive rise in trading conditions in the service sector, had analysts predicting a quarter point rise in interest rates would be anaounced tomorrow. A two-day meeting of the monetary policy committee starts today, its first since Gordon Brown gave the Bank operational independence to set interest rates.

Nikko Europe, said: "This survey confirms what we already knew, that the service sector continues to grow strongly. The strength of the survey will increase expectations that the new monetary committee will tight-en policy at this week's meeting."

The UK Purchasing Managers Report on Services, published by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), showed companies experiencing higher demand both at home and overseas. Employment in the service sector, which already accounts for three-quarters of all British jobs, grew sharply in May and severe skills

shortages started to emerge.
According to CIPS, rising payrolls have not kept pace with outstanding work, with many companies saying they did not have the capacity to meet

salary levels needed to retain staff and attract new recruits also led to a rise in costs in May.

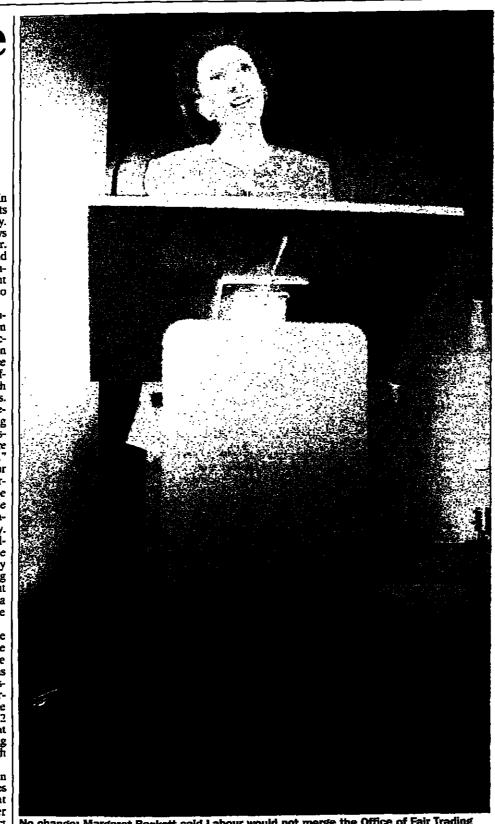
There was some good news on the inflation front, however. While some businesses had been able to pass on higher input prices, competition meant many others were unable to

charge higher prices.
Peter Thomson, director general of CIPS, said: "Growth on this scale in the UK service sector beats anything we have seen lately in manufacturing. Service companies do seem to be suffering from skill shortages, which are driving up their costs. Though there is certainly a developing trend of firms passing on these costs to their customers, inflationary pressures are being subdued by competition."

Mr George sent a tremor through foreign exchange markets when he appeared to be talking down the pound as he commented on the complica-He said the new monetary policy committee would discuss the contradictions in setting policy against a background of rising consumer demand, which might require higher rates, and a strong pound, which would be exacerbated by an increase.

He said: "The immediate problem is to balance the degree of tension between the pressure of domestic demand, which has been running a bit above a sustainable rate, with the exaggerated strength of the exchange rate." The pound fell almost 2 pfennigs to below 2.82 marks at one stage after earlier reaching a fresh four-and-a-half year high of 2.8331 marks.

Bonds also suffered. On Liffe, the September gilt futures contract was 11/32 lower at 1131232, while the September short sterling futures contract was 0.04 lower at 93.16.



No change: Margaret Beckett said Labour would not merge the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies & Mergers Commission

Beckett outlines plans to boost competitiveness

Michael Harrison

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, pledged yesterday that competition would remain the Government's primary consideration when vetting takeovers and mergers.

In her first big policy speech since taking up the job. Mrs Beckett also rejected proposals to reverse the burden of proof in merger cases to force a bidder to prove that a takeover was in the public interest and said Labour would not merge the Office of Pair Trading and the Monopolies & Mergers Commission.

Her wide-ranging speech to 100 leading businessmen went on to set out Labour's plans to improve the competitiveness of British industry. There will be a "competitiveness summit" in July at which the Government will audit Britain's performance followed by a competitiveness

White Paper next year. The White Paper will be proof working parties, each one chaired by a DTI minister and made up of businessmen, trade unionists, academics and consumer representatives. In addition there will be a 12-15 strong Advisory Committee on Competitiveness.

Mrs Beckett said her announcement amounted to the most wide-ranging consultation exercise undertaken by the DTI. But she denied it was tantamount to resurrecting the corporatist days of Neddy when government, employers and trade unions got around the table to thrash out policy.

She also insisted Labour had no intention of returning to its former industrial policies of intervention, saying it wanted to create a partnership between government and business.

"I have no interest in turning back the clock," Mrs Beckett

said. "Nor am I arguing for widescale government intervention, though some have implied I am itching to take decisions which are properly for the private sector. I am not trying to do your job but I am determined not to neglect to do my own."

The confirmation that Labour does not intend to tinker with competition policy was greeted with relief by the busi-ness leaders present. There had been concern that Mrs Beckett intended to apply a wider definition to the public interest test after she overrode John Bridgeman, Director-general of Fair Trading, by referring the takeover by National Express of

two rail franchises to the MMC. Richard Davey, of the merchant bankers Rothschilds, said he welcomed the announcement that the takeover rules would remain unchanged but urged the Government to put pressure on the Germans and French to apply the same tests in their markets.

There was some about the setting up of the competitiveness working groups. Ian Peters, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, sought an assurance that they would not turn from talking shops into forums for negotiations between employers and unions at national level.

At a later press conference. Mrs Beckett said the Government was working at a fast speed to introduce the European working time directive and the works council legislation but could not give firm timetables. However, the Competition

Bill to tighten control of anticompetitive agreements and give the OFT increased powers to raid company premises and fine them up to 10 per cent of turnover would be put to Parliament in October, she said. | er companies. Comment, page 23

Investment column, page 25

to expand in the US. Editions

of the Economist and the Fi-

nancial Times have already been

launched in the US. A substan-

tial acquisition would appease the City, which has been wait-

ing impatiently for news since

Ms Scardino took the helm at

lishes a magazine of the same

title and newsletters. It also or-

ganises business seminars and-

conferences. Euromoney, which

as it unveiled record results last

month, said it was keen to ac-

quire, is a direct competitor.

However, the City will not be

surprised that the company has taken its approaches no further.

as it has traditionally purchased

Institutional Investor pub-

the beginning of the year.

Pearson leads

race for US deal

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BA plans for alliance hit fresh turbulence in US

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David Usborne Washington

A full year since it was first unveiled, the proposed transatlantic alliance of British Airways and American Airlines met renewed turbulence urged that both carriers surrender more landing slots at Heathrow airport than either have so far envisaged.

In the first formal opinion to be delivered by a US government body, the General Accounting Office of the Congress (GAO)

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Statistics as of 4 June

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stopped far short of opposing the link. But it said that for fair competition to be preserved, an additional 23 daily slots should be made available at Heathrow to other US airlines.

The opinion was offered as testimony to a critical hearing on the proposed deal at the US Senate in Washington. Among those attending were the chief executives of both BA and American, Robert Ayling and Robert Crandall, as well as the heads of some other airlines that have been vehemently opposed to it.

STOCK MARKETS

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ready indicated a willingness to surrender some of the Heathrow landing rights. Until now, however, they have spoken only about 12 slots daily - roughly half what is suggested by the GAO. The GAO indicates that not all

come from BA or AA. Notably present at yesterday's Branson, who has been especially vigorous in opposing the al-liance. Stephen Wolf of US Airways was expected to testify, as was Sir Freddie Laker, who is re-

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the new slots need necessarily

BA and American have al-eady indicated a willingness to urrender some of the Heathrow bull the Star Al-

At a slick presentation before the main hearing, Messrs Crandall and Ayling voiced the frustration at the delay in getting approval for their deal. They aced the blame on their rivals. "The footdragging is directly

attributable to the activities of some competitors who have made a variety of misleading claims about our proposal," Mr Crandall thundered. He was especially abrasive about United Airlines, which has just forged

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On Brent 5

liance, that by most measures will eclipse the BA-AA embrace.
The United Airlines position

in all of this has been particularly hypocritical," Mr Crandall said. Mr Ayling meanwhile attacked Mr Branson for stirring controversy on slot overcrowd-ing at Heathrow while he has recently acquired landing rights for new US services from Sabena.

In its opinion, the GAO underlines its concern about the competitive impact of the al-

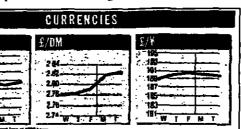
liance by saying that "to insure increased competition, the other major US airlines that fly international would need to serve Heathrow from their principal hubs".

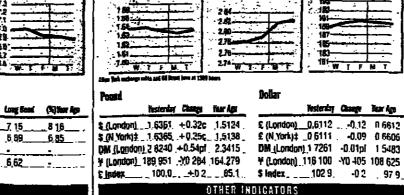
Under the existing US-UK aviation agreement, only American Airlines and United Airlines are granted the all-precious land-ing rights at Heathrow. However, approval of the BA-AA deal by the US Department of Transport remains contingent on the successful conclusion of negonatons for a new, more liberal inter-governmental package.

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the US press about Pearson's Corporation and Reuters, Pearson's new chief executive.

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Pearson is emerging as the frontrunner to buy Institutional Investor, a US financial magazines group, after one of the other bidders, Euromoney, the acquisitive magazine publisher and conference organiser, is thought to have pulled out of the auction.

Cathy Newman

Euromoney, which is controlled by the Daily Mail & General Trust, is understood to have quit the race to buy its US competitor after deciding the asking-price was too high.

But the cost of the business, which is owned by Walt Disney. has not deterred other bidders. and it is believed that Pearson may end up splashing out up to smaller concerns. \$200m (£123m) for the group. According to sources, most offers from other bidders are expected to be in the region of

Around five companies are expected to put in second bids by next Monday. There has been widespread speculation in challengers. Those likely to have shown an interest include the Canadian-owned Thomson

Majorie Scardino, is herself a Texan and is known to be keen

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W THE VIEW



'In its last three years in opposition, Labour consulted every last comer of the business community about what it should do when it got to power. The answer, now that

it has finally arrived

is, er, yet more

consultation'

A fter flash Gordon, flat Margaret. No one supposed the President of the Board of den of proof, nor will there be any changes Trade would produce the same firecrackers as the Chancellor, but even so her first big policy speech setting out what New Labour means for business was not expected to be quite such a damp squib. In its last three years in opposition. Labour consulted every last corner of the business community about what it should do when it got to power. The answer, now that it has finally arrived is, er, yet more consultation, though this time on a grand scale and dressed up with the buzzwords of modern day business-speak. Stand by for the Benchmark for Britain, the Export Forum, the Competitiveness Summit and something called Flexibility Plus.

If this all sounds faintly redolent of the days when Michael "National Champions" Heseltine was running the show in Victoria Street, don't be too surprised. Although Mrs Beckett casually referred to Hezza's two competitiveness white papers as "political stunts", she is gaily preparing her own white paper on the subject, aided by a Competi-tiveness Audit, an Advisory Group on Competitiveness and a series of Competitiveness Working Parties. Get the point or do we have to Labour it? Competitiveness is going to be

right there at the top of the agenda.

Beyond this all-embracing but hopelessly vague pledge, what else is there. Well, for the time being Mrs Beckett seems to be better at deciding what she isn't going to do than what

to the bodies that execute competition policy beyond some tinkering at the edges with the OFT and MMC. For that much we can be thankful. It was Mrs Beckett who only six months ago wanted to force hostile bidders to demonstrate that their takeovers were in the public interest as opposed merely to not

being against it. Happily, wiser counsels have prevailed in the form of Gordon Borrie, who has been chairing Labour's committee of wise men examining competition policy.

Mrs Beckett's commitment to flexible labour markets, and her promise that support for the Social Chapter will not extend to importing German and French social security costs, are all be to welcomed. But her single most important announcement was that mergers policy will continue to be guided by competition considerations. Relief all round.

It's too late for second thoughts on Eurofighter

Achtung! Spitfire! And in more ways than one. The RAF wants the Eurofighter because it is a kind of modern day Spitfire, and while its original military purpose, to shoot down the fighters protecting Russian nuclear bombers, has long since vanished, there is no doubt that this is a wonderful piece of tech-nology that the RAF could justifiably feel proud of. Our lads are going to get 230 of the blighters, even under Labour, which, British Bulldog-like, is backing this questionable project as vigorously as the previous government.

The Germans like it ... Well actually they

No firecrackers on mergers policy. That's a relief

don't like it at all, really. They don't want it, they don't need it, and it threatens only to make a bad budgetary position look even worse. But in the spirit of European co-oper-ation, they are going to back it nevertheless. At least that's what the German Defence Minister, Volker Ruehe, told his British counter part, George Robertson yesterday. Apparently he's been assured that the money will be there by Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister. So that's alright then. Whether this assurance came before or after the shenanigans about German gold reserves is anyone's guess. It seems to be the Bundesbank that calls the shots in Germany these days, not Mr Waigel, and the Bundesbank appears rather less committed to the cause of European inte gration than the German government.

Whatever the case, we must for the time being assume that Mr Ruehe is as good as his word and the Germans are definitely in. If the Eurofighter worsens yet further the state of Germany's public finances in the run-up to monetary union, so be it. All of which must come as a mighty relief to the British Government, for whatever the merits or otherwise of the project, there is no doubt that we in Britain are now in it so deep that even if our New Labour masters (sorry, servants) did want to withdraw, they would find it very hard.

We've already spent £5bn out of the £15bn it will eventually cost us, thousands of hi-tech jobs as well as the future of our aerospace industry rely on it, and while you can argue about the military purpose of this extraordi-nary piece of machinery, the RAF certainly needs something for its pilots to fly in the next millennium. In other words, as far as we in Britain are concerned, it's too late for second thoughts. If the Germans pull out, it will cost

us even more. So let's hope that Mr Ruche is right about July 11, when the German cabinet meets to discuss the budget, and that in the hunt for further spending cuts to replace the now banned gold reserves wheeze, the Eurofighter is not again to be the victim.

Insider dealing should stay a criminal offence

A listair Darling. Chief Secretary to the Trea-Asury, has long favoured turning insider dealing from a criminal into a civil offence, so reports that he is actually going to do so in the forthcoming Financial Services Bill to create the super-SIB should not come as much

However, it is one thing to say something fashionable while in Opposition, quite another to do it when actually in Government. While any such move would recognise the practicalities and difficulties associated with addressing insider dealing, it would also to many Old

Labour supporters be seen as something of a betrayal, a formal recognition of the principle that there is one law for the poor and an altogether different one for the rich.

On the positive side, making insider dealing a civil offence would ease the burden of proof and allow many more such cases to be brought to the courts. On the negative side. it would rule out the penalty of imprisonment and the people's right to brand offenders of this sort as criminals. Social security cheats would continue to be treated as the thieves they are, financial ones would escape with a fine and a ban. This is not really good enough

and it is certainly not what society demands. In any case, it is not at all clear that transforming the offence into a civil one would make it any easier to deal with the real endemic problem of insider dealing. This is not the hundreds of small to medium sized cases which each year founder on lack of evidence or the law's inability adequately to define the crime, but the big professional City insider dealing rings, operating furtively behind the cover of offshore immunity. Here the problem is not one of prosecution, but that of discovery and investigation. Even in civil proceedings, it would not be possible to bring a case on circumstantial evidence alone.

Abandoning criminal sanctions in favour of civil ones is not the solution. Rather it is in beefing up powers of investigation, allowing regulators to mount undercover operations, tap phones and the like. Only then will the real villains start to be brought to book.

Power suppliers will have to offer same price for all

Michael Harrison and Chris Godsmark

Power suppliers were facing a further clampdown yesterday after being warned that they would not be allowed to pass the windfall tax on to consumers and would have to offer the same prices to all customers when full competition hits the electricity and gas markets next year.

John Battle, the Energy Minister, made it clear that supplicherry-pick the most lucrative customers by offering special discounts only to those paying by direct debit.

Meanwhile. Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity indus-try regulator, said he would not a crisis of confidence if they made be prepared to amend price a mess of introducing competicontrols to allow the cost of the tion into the domestic market. windfall levy to be met through higher bills. "I don't start with the presumption that I need to do that. The aim of the levy is not to tax customers," he said.

Mr Battle's move follows growing concern at the wide differences in charges in competitive gas trial areas between poorer households on pre-payment meters and those who pay by direct debit. Tariffs from one independent supplier were 34

per cent lower for direct debit payers than for those with prepayment meters, compared with a 14 per cent spread with British Gas Trading.

Mr Battle said the threat of "fuel poverty" was still a very real issue. "Social obligations must not be allowed to fall between the cracks ... If competition doesn't deliver a better deal for those who need it most I do not believe it will have delivered at all."

He said he had already told Professor Littlechild to start a share buyback. The group review in the electricity market pledged to spend £100m on ers would not be allowed to Professor Littlechild to start a and would be doing the same with Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator.

Mr Battle also told the regional "Those targets were set eight I want no wrong bills and I want the timetable to be met." He said RECs that were not ready next year would face tough financial penalties, while those that succeeded would receive rewards.

Jim Forbes, chief executive of Southern Electric, insisted it was more important to ensure per cent to 477 with all regions no customers were hit by computer billing problems. "If it's six porting a decrease.

or seven months late it's still a triumph for the UK because it takes us years ahead of the rest of the world." Southern said its computer systems would be ready for testing in January 1998, despite being singled out by the regulator last week for not

keeping up with the timetable. Southern yesterday blamed an 11 per cent drop in profits to £255.5m on price controls from the regulator and higher interest charges associated with last year's

seven small gas generating plants. Meanwhile Offer's annual report for 1996 shows that although complaints continue to fall nationally they rose by 25 per cent in the case of three RECs - Northern, Norweb and London. In Northern's case. complaints have increased for years ago. I want them to be met. three years running. Professor I want no wrong bills and I want Littlechild said he had asked Northern, Swalec and London to demonstrate how they intended to improve performance after a doubling in complaints

about quality of supply. The total number of disconnections meanwhile fell by 43 apart again from Northern re-

Share options for 5,000 at British Energy



Bob Hawley: Said executives would also receive share options for the first time

Chris Godsmark

Around 5,000 employees of British Energy, the privatised nuclear generator, are to receive at least 1,000 share options for the first time next month, worth a minimum of almost £1,500 at yesterday's closing share price.

The group also revealed a £1.5bn deal with British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) to cover much of its outstanding fuel reprocessing liabilities, which will save British Energy £10m a year. The reprocessing deal covers fuel from five advanced gas cooled reac-tors at fixed prices, which would pass some of the risk in the contracts over to BNFL British Energy raised its accrued liabilities for reprocessing and decom-missioning by £53m last year to

£3.8bn. The share option scheme came a year after privatisation which has seen British Energy shares surge from their flotation value of 105p on the back of generous dividend payments

guaranteed by the government.
All staff will receive 1,000 share options from 15 July at the current share price on that day. If they stay with the company they will be able to exercise the their peak of 163.5p. options in three years time, making a profit if the price then is higher than the price now. Employees with more than five years' service will receive more options up to a maximum of 2000 shares.

Mike Kirwan, finance director, said such as broad scheme was "very unusual". He continued: "It's much more the workforce down to 5,940." driven by out belief that em-

ployees are properly monvated if they are properly incen-tivised." Asda, the supermarket group, is one of the few large UK companies that have extended share option schemes to all employees as opposed to other save-as-you-earn schemes.

Bob Hawley, the chief executive, said board executives would also receive share options for the first time, along with other senior managers. He declined to spell out details of their scheme, except to say it would be linked to performance targets, though he said more detailed would be given at British Energy's annual sharebolders' meeting on 18 July.

Mr Hawley, who was paid a basic salary of £207,000 in the year to March, said the executive scheme would not be "abnormal". He added: "We are lean cats really." The group said it had no plans for a long-term

incentive plan on top. British Energy yesterday announced its first set of profits for the year to March of £36m after tax, compared with proforma losses the previous year of £155m. The shares rose 9n to 148p, though they remain below

Efficiency savings helped to lift profits, with the Sizewell B reactor running with an 81 per cent load factor, including statutory cut-offs for safety checks. The company increased its share of the energy market from 19 to 21 per cent. The costcutting programme continued. with 484 staff leaving to bring Investment Column, page 24

'ood

IN BRIEF

Westminster buys nine nursing homes

In a further shake-out of the nursing home sector, Westminster Healthcare is buying all the nursing home interests of PPP, the UK's largest provider of long-term private health insurance, for 122 for each The deal to have DDD's ring homes also two under £22.6m cash. The deal to buy PPP's nine homes, plus two under construction, substantially increases Westminster's share of the lucrative private pay market. Seven of the homes, which are based in the South, have self-contained assisted-living buildings attached, adding to Westminster's sheltered home business. Pat Carter, chief executive of Westminster, said: "We were particularly interested in these units. Home care is the growth market in the US."

Former Nomura executives charged

son lead

Prosecutors charged Nomura Securities, Japan's largest broker-Prosecutors charged Nomura Securities, Japan's largest brokerage, and two former top executives with illegally compensating a gangster for £264,000 in trading losses. The charges were made against against Shimpei Matsuki and Nobutaka Fujikura, two former managing directors. These are the first charges to arise from the scandal, which has widened to include Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, the nation's third-largest bank. Ryuichi Koike, 54, a reputed corporate blackmailer, borrowed £141m from the bank, part of which he used to buy 300,000 shares in Nomura and the other three hockerages, according to the Ministry of Finance. Then he three brokerages, according to the Ministry of Finance. Then he used his position as a large shareholder to extort hush money from Nomura, prosecutors allege.

Israeli government to sue tobacco firms

The Israeli government is preparing to file a £3.0bn lawsuit against local and international tobacco companies for losses caused by smoking-related diseases. "The decision to file the suit has been taken and it should come to court in Israei in a matter of weeks," said Yair Amikam, a spokesman for the health ministry. "Our experts estimate the damages from smoking at 20bn shekels [£3.6bn], although our legal team is still looking into it and might come up with other figures."

Frost shares dive on profits warning

Shares in Frost dived by 29p to 90p after James Frost, chairman, wanted that first-half results from the petrol station group would only be similar to the same period last year. Addressing the annual Gaicing meeting he criticised the price competition between Esso and Esso. An attempted petrol price rise in January collapsed, The fine my opinion, to a reluctance by Esso and Tesco for one to some appearance the other—the country's largest supermarket group solutions against the country's largest oil company".

RIB Mining plans 'super pit'

The storing has been granted a Coal Authority licence to draw the plants for Britain's biggest coal mining project in 20 years, a specific pit" in the East Midlands. The planned site could be provide 500 mining-related jobs for generations to come, RJB provide 500 mining-related jobs for generations to come, RJB provide 500 mining-related jobs for generations to come, RJB provide some an estimated 450 million tonnes of The mine could access an estimated 450 million tonnes of quality coal, making it the biggest coal bonanza in Britain since

Orange boosts services in mobile phone battle

Orange yesterday fired more shots in the intense battle between the four mobile phone networks, with a range of en-hanced services to reduce costs and improve services to consumer and business users.

The company announced new options for customers aimed at "allowing the many to talk to the many". The services, to be launched over the next few weeks, include moves to indirectly reduce prices by letting more people share bills. Conference call options and a facility to message large numbers of users are also being introduced.

The developments follow comments earlier this week by Vodafone, the largest British mobile operator, that profits would continue to be hit by in-tense competition in the mobile week One 2 One, the smallest of the four networks, introduced price packages which it said undercut its competitors.

A spokesman for Orange denied the move was a further bout of the price war, but said: "These services save customers money and make Orange more

The first offering, launched yesterday, is Orange Group Answer Phone, which enables voice messages to be sent to 25 different mobile phones at the same time and for the cost of a single call. Group text messaging will follow next month.
Orange Conference Call will

allow six people to talk to each other at the same time and Orange Talkshare Plus, an extension of the Talkshare promotion last November, gives up to 50 customers the chance to share a bill, benefiting from an intelephony industry. Only last creased number of "bundled"

minutes included in the monthly charge.
Although the news emerged

too late for shares to react. City analysts said Orange was building on its reputation for inno-vative services. Jim McCafferty, telecommunications analyst at ABN Amro Hoare Govett, said Orange was enhancing its offering rather than cutting prices.
"Orange has been renowned for its innovative service since inception," he said, adding that as competition in the market hotted up, phone operators had to find points of difference. "There won't be much difference in coverage by the end of next year, so operators have got to differentiate themselves in terms of products, marketing, packaging, price structuring

and so on. New tariffs will be published for the Talkshare service near-

Advisers bail out Tradepoint

Sameena Akmad

Tradepoint, the cash-strapped electronic share exchange, has saved itself from the administrators by raising interim funds of £775,000 and says it will secure long-term financing before the end of next month. The placing of 1.6 million shares was at a knock-down price of 50p each, 33 per cent below yester-

day's 75p closing price. The AIM-listed group was rescued by its nominated advisers, Williams de Broe, this week after admitting that it had failed to secure long-term financing in time to satisfy its bankers. Williams has waived

the fee for raising the interim Tradepoint's chief executive cash, but has renegotiated its warrants in the company on substantially improved terms.

Gary Levin, corporate financier at Williams, said the company clearly needed to raise substantially more cash longer term. That amount is likely to be around £9m-£10m.

Mr Levin played down suggestions that the group would be unable to raise the money in time: "There have been expressions of interest, but we are not that far down the road. We are hopeful of securing something by the end of July. We are in discussions," he said.

Michael

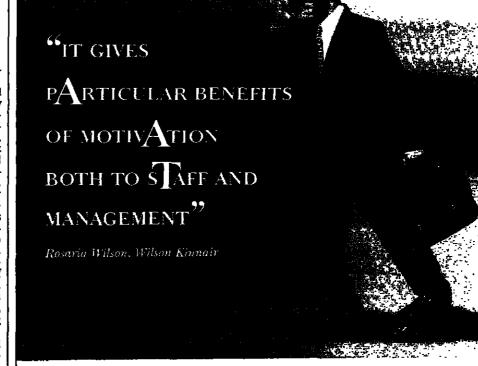
Waller-Bridge.

said: "No one can ever be 100 per cent sire of anything, but we are fully confident." In a complicated restructuring which accompanied the placing, all five Tradepoint directors have agreed not to be paid for two months. Half of their deferred salary will be used to buy Trade-

point shares at 50p each, equal

to 5 per cent of the company.

A bonus scheme, based on cash-flow targets, that would have given directors shares equal to 30 per cent of the company, has been scaled back to 5 per cent. Mr Levin said that level was inot appropriate for a company looking for long-term investors".



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Staveley to cut more jobs and sell division

Cathy Newman

Staveley Industries, the measurement, mechanical engineering and minerals company, vesterday announced further job cuts and the sale of one of its divisions in an attempt to stave off further losses.

Roy Hitchens, chief executive of Staveley, said he was pressing ahead with plans to sell the measurement division and hoped to complete a sale by the end of this year.
As part of a move to make the

business more attractive to potential buyers, 50 employees in the bagging systems section, Chronos Richardson, are to be made redundant at a cost of around £1m. During a restruc- ment operation, the results

turing of the business two years ago nearly 200 jobs were axed.

Mr Hitchens said "between 10 and 20" companies had expressed an interest in Staveley Measurement and more serious discussions would proceed with a few shortly. While he would prefer to sell to a single bidder. he said he would consider breaking up the division.

Chronos Richardson lost £5m in the year to the end of March and dragged profits in Staveley Measurement down from £5.2m to £2.6m.

Group profit before tax for the year to the end of March. announced yesterday, plunged 28 per cent to £16.6m. Besides the problems in the measurewere hit by £4.7m of reorganisation costs. Earnings per share fell 40 per cent to 9.8p.

Mr Hitchens said he was optimistic about prospects for the rest of the group, pointing to an agreement signed with United Gas to store natural gas in salt cavities.

Analysts expect the sale of the measurement business to fetch between £30m and £40m but Mr Hitchens did not rule out a rights issue to fund future acquisitions "in the long term".

Some analysts said that while the future did look "more interesting" if Staveley managed to sell the measurement side, the company was looking vulnerable to takeover. The shares dropped op yesterday to 166.5p.

Warning from Allied in Atlas takeover Colloids

Magnus Grimond

A warning from Allied Colloids that profits could be hit by the current strength of the pound yesterday took the shine off the group's first results since the record \$390m (£233m) purchase of the CPS Chemical Company of New Jersey last year. The shares slipped 1.5p to 128.5p, but remain above the 118p terms of

December's cash call. Announcing a 30 per cent rise in profits to £54.6m for the 12 months to March, David Farrar, chief executive, said the recent significant changes in exchange rates would have hit profits by £5m had they applied throughout the year. He warned that "clearly [they] will have a negative impact on profit in the current year".

However, he forecast exchange rate effects would not afteet the company's competitive position and said he was 'pleased' with the performance of CPS since January and the progress in realising synergies. CPS chipped in £3.9m profits to these figures. The original operations saw gross margins rise from 36 to 39 per cent on reduced raw material costs, improved manufacturing efficiency and stable sales prices. The group warned raw material costs would increase again, led by propylene-based products. | [F] - Final [I] - Interim (N) - Mine months

Directors net £22m

Sameena Ahmad

Four directors of Atlas Converting Equipment will net £22.4m following the £80m agreed cash bid for the company from Valmet, the Finnish industrial group.

The directors, who own 26 per cent of the company, include founder and chairman Chris Rogers, who has a 17 per cent stake in Atlas and will make £15m from the deal. All the directors will stay on as part of the enlarged company.

The bid values each Atlas share at 815p, a 26 per cent premium to the pre-bid price.

Shares in the group, which is one of the world's largest manufacturers of rewinders for plastics, closed 160p up at 807.5p. Mr Rogers said Atlas was

looking to expand its interna-tional business. Valmet's strong international base and its excellent fit with the company's existing businesses made it an ideal partner.

Matti Sundberg, president of Valmet, which designs and makes machines used in the paper and pulp industry, said: "Atlas's operations are complementary to Valmet's and both are aimed at developing international markets."

	Compai	ny kesu	its	
	Ternover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Allied Colloids (F)	438m (393m)	54:0m (42,1m)	6.76p (5.57p)	3.15p (2.86p)
8lick (1)	36.9m (29.8m)	6.15m (7.0m)	13.54p (16.40p)	4.5p (4.5p)
British Energy (F)	1.87bn (1.65bn)	61.0m (-155m)	5.1p (-22.1p)	13.7p (-)
Caffyris (F)	166m (161m)	1.3m (0.63m)	29.7p (12.6p)	12.5p (11.5p)
Campbell & Armstroog (F)	26.8m (72.3m)	-2.91m (-7.98m)	-7.9p (-54.6p)	Gil (-)
French (1)	11.9m (7.95m)	1.58m (1.50m)	2.48p (1.55p)	1.575p (1.5p)
Heals (I)	13.2m (10.8m)	0.88m (1.22m)	9.08p (7.34p)	- (-)
Loakers (1)	302m (213m)	4.0m (3.18m)	8.2p (6.7p)	2.6p (2.6p)
MEFC (I)	1.17bn (1.18bn)	50.1m (44,4m)	4.Sp (3.9p)	2.5p (2.5p)
Powerscrape (F)	305m (261m)	42.4m (261m)	36.1p (30.5p)	10.2p (9.2p)
Readicut Islat (F)	286m (234m)	10.01m (9.27m)	3.28p (3.15p)	2.58p (3.44p)
Shanks & McGuran (F)	144m(114.2m)	22.9m (19.5m)	7.7p (6.6p)	3.9p (3.6p)
Southern Electric (F)	1.77bn (1.72bn)	256m (283m)	37.5p (43.4p)	21.5p (18.75p)
Staveley (F)	400m (373m)	16.6m (23.2m)	9.8p (16.4p)	9p (9p)
Innstall Group (I)	41.3m (39.3m)	2.86m (4.18m)	5.5p (8.5p)	1.85p (1.68p)
Vibropiant (F)	36.8m (64.4m)	-2.88m (2.38m)	-4.2p (-4.67p)	4.05p (4.05p)
Warner Estate (I)	12.3m (7.23m)	4.82m (4.86m)	7.1p (7.87p)	4.15p (4p)
Young & Cas Browning (F)	75 8m (73,9 m) .	5.42m (5,23m)	28.96p (26.67p)	15.2p (15.2p)

NFC on a slow road to recovery

being meted out by new management. Gerry Murphy, the chief executive brought in by chairman Sir Christopher Bland, has been wrestling for the past two years with what is probably the world's largest and most restructured transport and removals

But the shares, up 0.5p at 128.5p, have stubbornly refused to respond, underperforming the rest of the market by 58 per cent since the be-ginning of 1994. Yesterday's new round of exceptional charges and con-tinuing losses in Europe must count as a further disappointment on the lone

road to recovery. The "clean" pre-tax profits of £50.1m for the six months to March, representing a 13 per cent rise on the restated figure for the comparable period, were respectable enough. But, despite Sir Christopher's confident assertion that the group is now out of the woods, it is clear there is still plenty of work to be done.

Yet another reorganisation programme, accounting for a £49m charge in these figures, will see some 60 prop-erties go in the UK, a management shake-up in Europe and the loss of some 500 to 600 jobs overall. The £39m cash cost of the plan is expected to be recouped from savings in the first two

But there must remain doubts that the Augean stables have been fully cleaned at NFC. Yesterday's disposals look sensible, but further pruning may be needed on the Continent, where losses climbed from £4.5m to £5.3m in the half year. And while profits were up a strong 12 per cent to £39.1m in the UK, the decision to relinquish three large yet unprofitable contracts with Whitbread, Homebase and Boots suggests the market remains tough. Indeed, NFC has lost as many contracts as it has won in the home market of late.

The question is what the group will now do with the net cash of £168m it will be left with after the disposals and reorganisation. It will be ungeared by the year end and Sir Christopher would be comfortable spending up to £200m on expansion in automotive parts, electronics and consumer goods in expanding markets such as North America and Asia, where NFC is achieving growth rates of up to 36 per

Management will have to tread extra carefully to avoid the wild spending spree in Europe at the turn of the decade which led to many of the current problems. Meanwhile, the Chancellor's expected attack on tax credits could cut the windfalls NFC has been gleaning from its overfunded pen-

Full-year profits of £115m, including

NFC, the old National Freight Corporation, is taking a while to respond to the treatment THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

£21m, would put the shares on a cupies the more downmarket end of forward price-earnings ratio of 13. The yield of 6.9 per cent provides solid support but the shares are not to be

Heal's designer look impresses

Teal's, the Queen's favourite upmarket furnishings store, looks well placed to cash in on its London base. With City bonuses increasing, house moves in the South-east rising fast and windfall gains to come, the group's tar-get market of 25 to 45-year-old professionals can afford to splash out

on Heal's designer look.

Floated at 175p in March, the group's maiden results were impressive. Sales for the six months to March rose 22 per cent to £13.2m, with like-for-like growth of 18 per

Trading record

Turnover (Ebn)

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Earnings per share (p)

This compares with around 3 per growth.

another pension credit of around cent from DFS Furniture, which octhe market. Heal's underlying profits rose 37 per cent to £1.7m and a dividend is promised at the full year

> There is little left to do in London and the South. The group will spend around £1m this year to finish the revamp of its flagship store in London's Tottenham Court Road and £1m next year to refit the Guildford shop. which is taking £100 less in sales per square foot than the £360 achieved at the other two outlets.

The real test will be rolling out the brand across Britain. A similar attempt failed in the 1980s, when the group was part of Storehouse and

had a dowdier image.

But with the brand now stronger, chief executive Colin Pilgrim's plans for cautious expansion - one new store a year for the next eight years - look workable. The first, in 1998, will be either Manchester or Glasgow, with Dublin, Newcastle and Leeds also planned. Mail order looks another fruitful area for

1996 1997

45.4

ــ Half year ــ

53.3

Mixed outlook at British Energy

> espite the generous share op-tions dished out by British En-ergy to staff and directors yesterday, the outlook for sharehold-ers in the privatised nuclear generator is distinctly mixed.
>
> News of the £1.5bn deal to settle

There are risks. Any blow to consumer confidence would hurt and whether Heal's goes down well in the

The forecast by brokers SGST of profits of £1.95m for the full year put

the shares, unchanged at 194.5p, on

a forward multiple of 17. Com-

pared with Harvey Nichols on well

over 20 times, that looks reasonable

Share Shares.

336 381<u>88 '</u>

1.30

Erebrak.

sittés à Rest

most of the group's outstanding de-commissioning liabilities with reprocessor BNFL was encouraging, nominally adding an immediate £10m to profits.

It was this, rather than British Energy's widely expected first profits, which sent the partly-paid shares 9p higher to 1480.

The after-tax surplus for the 12 months to the end of March came in at £36m, up from losses of £155m before. The company confirmed a total dividend for the year of 13.7p, giving yield of 7 per cent.

British Energy has raised efficiency at its generating stations, which sell all they can produce through base load contracts. On top, it has found plenty of effi-

ciency savings in the shape of 1,500 job cuts, roughly a third of which have already been made. With at least three head offices, there are no doubt more savings to come.

Yet the question for investors looking for a high yield remains whether to go for British Energy, with projections suggesting a relatively lowly 5 per cent real terms growth in payouts over the next few years, or the faster-growing National Power or

The answer would be clear if British Energy were to use its strong balance sheet either to distribute cash to investors or make earnings-enhancing ac-

But there are problems. Firstly, the gearing of 17 per cent ignores the vast £3.8bn decommissioning liabilities. Secondly, the group has, like the generators, run up against difficulties in its diversification strategy.

After the BNFL deal, forecasts have been raised from £85m to around

A dividend for 1997-98 of 14.50

would give a forecast yield of 7.4 per cent. Hold on.

Dividends per share (p) 7.1 7.1 Operating profit £m Share price pence 6 months to 31/3/96 6 months to 31/3/97 240 220-

NFC: At a glance

Market value: £896m, share price 128.5p

1994 1995 1996

38.6

2.20 2.46

105

Botham joins sporting-life.com



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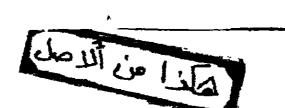
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market report/shares

Data Bank FTSE 100 4557.1 -- 0.7 FTSE 250 4467.8 ±5.8 FTSE 350 $\frac{2213.0}{100}$ SEAQ VOLUME

Budget fears take the wind out of Footsie record run six sessions, losing 123.5 points as the strength ebbed from financials and the stock market started to fret abut the hit is not ruled out. Labour government and its 846.9m shares.

first Budget. Although the index ended only 0.7 points lower yesterday it experienced another volatile confident. And when New York confounded the experts by opening sharply lower Footsie quickly went into

ragged retreat. Since Labour swept to power Footsie has enjoyed a remarkable run, even achieving its longest winning streak.
It started the Labour reign at 4,436, reaching a 4,693.9

closing peak and even breaking through 4,700 on occasions.

The Blair bloom has faded. Brown will heap more taxes on Footsie has fallen for the past companies and discriminate

against dividends. A £3hn windfall tax is already discounted but a heavier windfall Among blue chips British Aerospace, a possible windfall

casualty, climbed 35p to 1,252.5p as calls for a Eurofighter funding decision were session, giving up a 28.1 gain.
At their best level of the day
blue chips did not look entirely

confident. And Mr Blair told Parliament the Government was doing "everything we can to speed the Eurofighter project up".

> group in form, gaining 7.5p to 446.5p. It was lifted by rumours it was about to swoop for a stake in Tele Danmark and Government indications the ban will be lifted on the provision of entertainment through the telephone network.

BT was another privatised

The deepening fear is that Vodafone was the best the Chancellor, Gordon performing Footsie constituent,



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

at the close.

price war.

projected, although the grey

market level was around 350p

Norwich has put a price of

240p to 290p on its offer with

who blamed Esso and Tesco for

a flare up in the forecourts

printer, fell a further 22p to

De La Rue, the security

up 11p to 282.5p on its better-than-expected figures. ground despite indications of a soaraway performance by a soaraway performance by Norwich Union when trading Banks had a more relaxed session with Barciays up 8.5p starts on Monday week. to 1,170p. Halifax rose 8.5p to City Index, the bookmaker, 733p, although a string of has seen prices of up to 360p

at up to 775p. Volume was just over 9 million shares. HSBC firmed to 1,870p with Charterhouse Tilney predict-ing the price could hit £20 in a 25p discount for its members. Frost, the petrol retailer, fell 29.5p to 90p after a subdued trading statement from chairman James Frost the next three months.

small late trades went through

But Standard Chartered fell 14.5p to 928p. SBC Warburg is expected to downgrade after meeting the company; in the meantime negative noises were thought to be coming from stockbroker Collins Stewart.

1,052p two years ago.
Scottish & Newcastle, ex-

pected to roll out profits of around £380m, up from £308m, next month was the weakest of the blue chips, tumbling 18.5p to 673.5p in a flat beer sector. Imperial Tobacco wheezed 8.5p higher to 380.5p on Goldman Sachs support.

Retailer Laura Ashley had another poor session. It gave up 5p to 81.5p, reflecting its uninspiring trading statement: Celltech, the drugs group, re-mained depressed after the scrapping of its septic shock treatment, dropping 17.5p to

Takeover moves provided some bright spots. TLS, the vehicle hire group, at last signalled the long mooted bid was near. The shares jumped 28p to 125p. GE Capital of the US is keen to critical although is keen to strike although

approach.

CNC Properties, up 2p at 78.5p, duly confirmed a bid approach and also failed to identify the potential buyer.
Wiggins, up 0.25p to 9.5p, is
rumoured to be the interested party. Atlas Converting jumped 160p to 807.5p as an 815p offer appeared and Shield Diagnostic rose 45p to

497.5p on talk of a British Biotech strike. Life Numbers held at 9.25p. It is in talks which could produce a reverse takeover. Lynx. off 1.5p to 105.5p, said it could be the bidder for Kalamazoo

Computer, down 5p at 87.5p.

Dominion Energy came to life, up 2.5p to 12p. The company, with interests in North America, is indirectly controlled by Middlesex, the

FTSE 100 - Real-time 00
UK Stock Market Report 01
UK Company News 02
Foreign Exchange 03

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

2790000 BG 2120000 Lloyds TSB 1780000 NFC 1890000 British Steel 1590000 Sears

FTSE 100 index hour by hour

Onare Price Data

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Prices are in stering except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price carding exceptions items.

Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unisted Securities Market's Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Ni Paid Shares. ‡ AM Stock

Source: FT Intermation

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Sterling Rates 04 Bullion Report 05 Wall St Report 20 Tokyo Market 21

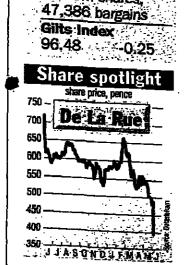
399.5p, lowest since 1991, following the latest set of poor TLS named no names, lowing the latest set of poor contenting itself with a state-contenting itself with a state-content with an AIM presence. It hopes to raise £2m offering shares through adviser Grant Thornton and stockbroker Durlacher Last year the company, with 29 offices and dealing with claims from

£300 to £25m, made profits of

Mondas, the second-time around computer venture for Tim Simon, rose 10p to 67.5p. It has won contracts for its software product worth possihly more than £500,000. The shares were floated in October at 75p. Mr Simon created Quotient, taken over for

☐Nord Anglia Education rose 7p to 144.5p, following City meetings. The private school operator is expanding its nursery operations with two recent openings.

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Don't be surprised if growth slows significantly next year

look encouraging. Household ated, the labour market is tightening, house prices are rising and well over £30on of building society windfalls are due this year. An investment boom may already be under way. In the past six months its rate of an-nualised growth has been well into double digits and well in excess of the pace of consumption.

In the current environment talk of a hard landing looks misplaced. However, we can see reasons why growth could slow sharply next year, surprising a consensus which is conditioned to believe the boom times have returned.

It is understandable if many commentators think the strength of the pound will not prove much of a hurdle for growth. Despite more than a 20 per cent rise in the exchange rate, export volumes appear to be holding up relatively well and the UK's trade position has yet to deteriorate significantly. This will give the Bank of England even more reason to raise interest rates in defence of the inflation target.

However, to paraphrase monetary ideology, the exchange rate affects the economy with "long and variable lags". Conventional thinking seems to be that sterling strength is no substitute for higher interest rates in slowing the economy - the manufacturing sector may be hit but this would be dwarfed by the strength of services. We would caution against such a sanguine view on the role of the currency.

In our view, the relationship between the exchange rate and the economy has changed. Increasing global competition has led to UK exporters being much more price takers in world markets. Profit margins now do more adjusting to a change in the exchange rate. The chart shows what a close relationship there has been between the ex-



DavidOwen

The risk is that the hit on the real economy from exchange rate appreciation occurs as rate rises are biting and windfalls are fading from view

Sterling export prices are only now beginning to come under pres-sure. However, because of contracts and recognition lags in 1992 there was an interval before the devaluation led to higher sterling export prices. Looking at the net export performance, one would be forgiven for thinking the 1992 devaluation did little to improve UK growth prospects. In reality, the cur-rency itself proved very helpful, but in exporters' profitability brought a delayed but powerful supply-

side push into export markets. We find it unrealistic to assume that more than a 20 per cent appreciation in the exchange rate will not hit profits hard. Gross trading profits of all companies recently de-celerated significantly, partly on the back of a pick-up in whole economy unit labour costs.

There also seems to be a degree of "money illusion" built into many analysts' company profit projections. Assuming inflation averages 2.5 per cent a year going forwards, nom-inal GDP will average at best 5 per cent a year (2.5 per cent inflation plus 25 per cent trend growth). Over the longer term, earnings will have difficulty beating that bench-mark. Even without the rise in the exchange rate, profit downgrades would be in the pipeline.

The risk is that the hit on the real

economy from the exchange rate appreciation occurs as interest rate rises are biting and windfalls are fading from view. We can see from the experience of the US that companies are now much quicker to address a squeeze on margins and a slowdown in order books. Next year would be a different scenario if unemployment started rising again in the UK. Household income growth, a key driver for consumption trends and the housing market, could decelerate sharply.

On a more general point, there seems little risk of a consumer boom without a decisive fall in the saving ratio. This is as high now as in recession. Part of the explanation

Sterling export prices and exchange rate

the growth effects were delayed un-til 1994 and 1995. The massive leap the labour market. Despite falling unemployment and evidence that average job tenure has picked up a little since recession, survey evidence suggests that job security has declined to record lows.

In the past, falls in unemployment were associated with a declining saving ratio. However, in the past falling unemployment did not coincide with rising job insecurity. If the UK continues following the US model, employee morale is unlikely to continue deteriorating forever. However, by historic standards it could remain very low.

Work we have done at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has identified the importance of equity withdrawal from the housing market for the consumer boom of the 1980s. Official data confirms there is no evidence yet of equity withdrawal picking up.
This is not so surprising. In the past
there has always been a long lag
before rising house prices led to
equity withdrawal. A reduction in
negative net equity might lead some
individuals to repay debt at a slower rate or to stop repaying debt. However, others may use any improvement in income prospects to reduce their debts.

The Bank of England's task has been made harder by the polarisa-tion that seems in evidence in the labour and housing markets. The top end of the housing market has recovered sharply but the national performance is not so impressive and turnover is relatively very low. Moreover, real wage growth per employ-ee remains relatively low. Excluding the bonuses paid to the finance sector, real wages per employee are growing by not much more than 1 per cent a year, compared to the long-term average of 2 per cent.

It is the task of forecasters to try

and identify structural breaks, which may have caused relationships which held true in the past to break down. We can identify several. We would not be surprised if economic growth slowed from over 3 per cent this year to under 2 per cent next.

The author is UK economist and director at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson

Liffe Financial Futures

Trust Prices

Galaxy lands a superstar, along with Billy Bunter

Robert Stigwood, the impresario best known for his productions of Jesus Christ Superstar, Grease and Evita, has been brought in by his friend, Christopher Moran, as пол-executive chairman of Galaxy Media Corporation, the quoted TV programme maker and entertainment business which grew out of the old CSC investment trust. Its star programmes include Funky Bunker and Bonkers, for ITV, a pop video for Manchester United, and it recently bought the rights to Billy Bunter and Grey-

friars School. Mr Stigwood's acceptance is something of a coup as he has no other current directorships. But for five years in the Seventies he ran the Robert Stigwood Organisation, a listed company which he eventually sold to PolyGram in

Mr Moran, who is the largest shareholder in Galaxy with 29 per cent of the company, has been appointed non-executive deputy chairman. Another big shareholder is Mike Mansfield, former host of the pop programme
Supersonic and the chief executive is John Webber, a former vice-chairman of Mark McCormack's International Management Group. He is building up the sporting events and agency side of the business.

Mr Stigwood has an option over 350,000 ordinary shares exercisable within the next six months at 100p a share. He is in the money immediately as the shares rose 10p to 170p yesterday, valuing the company which lost £474,000 in the 18 months to last June and has yet to pay a dividend in its current incarnation, at

Some nasty growls are reverberating round the world of personal finance this week after Richard Branson's Virgin Direct group offered to pay all exit penalties charged by competing PEP managers on behalf of investors who switch their PEPs to Virgin before 18 July.

To underline the fact that relatively few investors know they can switch their PEPs without affecting their annual investment limits, Virgin has named 24 "PEP superPEOPLE & BUSINESS



Robert Stigwood: Behind 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and 'Evita'

dogs", funds which have consistently failed to match the market sector in which they invest in three consecutive three-year periods.

The list includes two funds from Fidelity, the managers which rose to Virgin's challenge on management charges a couple of years ago. Then Virgin sent Freya Soanes, its favourite "trolley dolly", to infiltrate a briefing and make a pleasing visual point. Virgin had thought of dressing up a miserable pooch with a ball and chain labelled exit charges, but thought better of it, marketing di-

rector Tony Wood said yesterday.
But Fidelity's Paul Kafka
thinks Virgin's latest effort sad and desperate. The two Fidelity funds named have bounced back into the top quartile in the past two years and they levy no exit charges, while Virgin's has been losing hands down in the war to attract windfall investments. "You can't hold your actual windfalls

for more than a year with Virgin and their tracker fund linked to the All Share index has underperformed Fidelity's which tracks the Footsie," he snarled.

I hear that executives at Emap negotiating the sale of 14 business titles are encountering problems trying to dispose of a "people business". Employees at the publi-cations up for sale – which include Media Week and Press Gazette were called to a "morale boosting" meeting this week.

lony Harris, managing director of Emap Media, addressed the assembled hacks who were, say insiders, in "combative" mood. Some pertunent questions from Mr Harris' hard-working staff alerted him to the fact that he was not the only one looking for an escape from the magazines. The answer to his dilemma proved simple: "loyalty bonuses" for all those who agreed to stay with the magazines - for better or for worse - under new ownership. Funny he hadn't tried this particular make of handcuff before.

Colly Myers has been confirmed as group managing director of Psion, the personal organiser maker, following the decision to split the roles of chairman and chief executive as a result of the illness of David Potter. Mr Potter remains executive chairman and I am glad to hear he is in good heart and voice again.

Mr Myers is one of the three employees who sat round a restaurant table in 1984 eating coffee and sandwiches and scribbling ideas on the napkins. The need to find something cheaper and more convenient to store information led directly to the invention of the Psion Organiser, according to company folklore.

EVERLEY

#<u>.</u>.

See Acres Co. 14 E. LT. 510 EM.

Mr Myers is 42 and a South African and is unhappy to find his new responsibilities mean he will miss the Lord's Test match between England and Australia

Clifford German

change rate and sterling export prices. Currency depreciations tend to be associated with rising sterling export prices and higher profit margins. Currency appreciations are associated with falling sterling export Foreign Exchange Rates Interest Rates

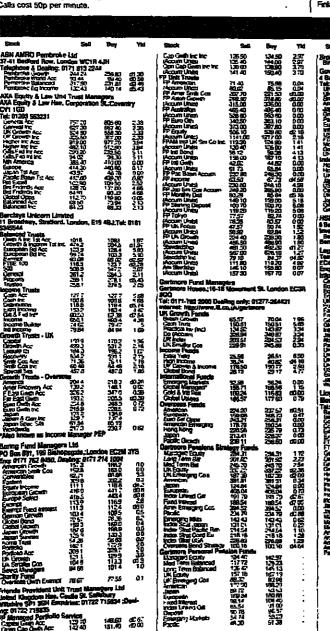
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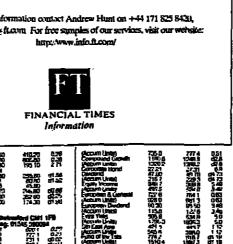
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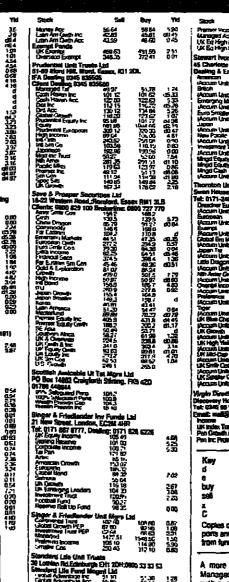


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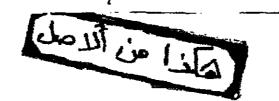


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Is Entrepreneur the real deal?

John Gosden is not a pessimist by nature, so it says a great deal about the impression which Entrepreneur has made in his brief, four-race career that the man who will take him on with Benny The Dip in the Derby on Saturday struggles to cide that an apparently copperfind anything positive to say about his runner's prospects. There is," he points out finally, "plenty of prize-money for the places."

So there you have it. There will be two processions at Epsom this weekend, the one which takes the Queen to the foot of the new grandstand, and the one which Entrepreneur will lead past the double-deckers. And yet, as any punter knows, favourites - and far hotter ones than Entrepreneur at that - are beaten on our race-tracks on almost a daily basis. Can Michael Stoute's colt really be the certainty that backers, bookies and even the trainers of his rivals appear to think he is?

In a sense, of course, it is a meaningless question, like asking whether a football team has what it takes to win the Premiership shortly before, rather than immediately after, they have played Manchester United. We will only know for sure at 3.50 on Saturday afternoon, by which time, whatever the verdict, millions will have changed

Spend just a few minutes listening to some smart judges. though, and it becomes clear just why it is that many punters will look at the annual five per cent or so interest that they are getting on their savings account on Saturday morning, and de-

Greg Wood finds the professionals unable to fault the Derby favourite

bottomed return of 95 per cent in two and a half minutes is far more attractive.

"At the moment, he's the best there is," says John Reid, who got as close to Entrepreneur as anyone in the 2,000 Guineas, when he finished second on Revoque. "Even as a two-year-old he was the best of Michael Stoute's, and now he's proved himself and won well at a mile. We don't know if he'll

'I believe we're going to see a real racehorse. That type that doesn't come along too often

improve with another four furlongs to run, but there's no reason why he shouldn't. He's got a good temperament, he travels well and relaxes in a race, there's no kinks in him."

Gosden cannot help but agree. "I can only see plusses," he says. "He was a very attrac-tive yearling, well balanced and proportioned, and he has a very good pedigree, by a champion sire out of a mare who's

produced Group winners at a mile and a half. He was always greatly liked as a two-year-old. but wasn't highly tried with this season in mind, and now he's won the Guineas, which is the Derby trial, and won it well. I think he's shown himself on form to be a class above any-

thing else.
"The other thing is that he's got a neat action, he's not a big, long-striding horse, and he'll probably be ideal for Epsom. The rest of us are the ones with flaws, I'm afraid. Benny The Dip has them in stamina and pedigree and the second favourite [Silver Patriarch] in terms of speed. We'll turn up and have a go, but I think as much as you can be sure of anything in this business, it looks

Even those most dispassionate of judges, the handicappers at Timeform, struggle to predict anything but a win for the favourite. "He's got the form to win it," Chris Williams, who assesses the Classic generation, says, "and we think he's going to prove at least as effective over a mile and a half. He's currently rated 126p, and you'd have to go back to Nashwan (1989) to find a horse with a better rating going into the race.

The average Derby winner these days is rated about 127 or 128, but if he's going to be outstanding, we'd like to see him run to a much higher mark than that. It all depends on the quality of the opposition, how high he can be pushed."

While the numbers in the ners, however, have justified Timeform black book are per-short odds at Epsom, and it is suasive, however, there is a another point in Entrepreneur's

favour that unlike many top milers whose stamina will always be counsels caution. Most bookmakers expect Entrepreneur suspect over an extra four furto set off as the sixth odds-on longs, pedigree experts believe Derby favourite since the War, him to have that hallmark of but backers were paid out over brilliance, impeccable middlejust three. Two of the three distance bloodlines but with losers, Tudor Minstrel (4-7 the speed to beat the best at a favourite in 1947) and El Gran Senor (8-11 in 1984) arrived at Epsom, like Entrepreneur,

As Gosden says, "Before the Guineas, a lot of people said the fresh from success in the 2,000 horse had too much stamina to win, and of course afterwards ners of the Newmarket Classic they said he had too much speed for the Derby. You can't make people like that happy.

"I'm inclined to believe that we're going to see a real racehorse win well. The type that doesn't come along too often."

HOW 2,000 GUINEAS WINNERS AND FAVOURITES HAVE FARED IN THE DERBY Witmer. Dushyantor (9-2, 2nd) 1996 Shaamit (12-1) Pennekamp (11-8, 11th Lammtarra (14-1) Erhaab (7-2) Emaab (7-2, 1st) Commander in Chief (15-2) 1992 Dr Devious (8-1) Generous (9-1) Toulan (4-1, 9th) Quest For Fame (7-1) Nashwan (5-4) Kahyasi (11-1) Reference Point (6-4) Shahrastani (11-2) Slip Anchor (9-4)

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(CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 6f

4.00 BRECKLAND MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D)

4.30 RIVER YARE LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F)

£4,500 added 2YO 6f

BALTIC STATE (USA) H Cecil 9 0 ... BLUNDELL LAME (12) A Jans 9 0...

£3,300 added 1m 6f

KOSHIRAAK (58) R Am

Secreto (14-1)

Teenoso (9-2)

1983

Pennekamp (11-8, 11th) Mister Baileys (14-1, 4th) Tenby (4-5, 10th) Rodrigo De Triano (13-2, 9th) Rodrigo De Triano (13-2, 9th) Comupt (4-1, 6th) Rezeen (9-2, 14th) Nashwan (5-4, 1st) Red Glow (5-2, 4th) Reference Point (6-4, 1st) Daricing Brave (2-1, 2nd) Slip Anchor (9-4, 1st) El Gran Senor (8-11, 2nd) Teenoso (9-2, 1st) Golden Fleece (3-1, 1st)

Mystiko (5-1, 10th) Tirol (NR) Nashwan (5-4, 1st) Doyoun (9-1, 3rd) Don't Forget Me (NR) Dancing Brave (2-1, 2nd) Shadeed (7-2, 13th) El Gran Senor (8-11, 2nd) Lomond (9-1, 16th)

2,000 Guineas winner

Mark Of Esteem (NR)

Zafonic (NR)

BEVERLEY

2.20 Coretta 3.20 Only For Gold

3.50 Eagle Canyon 4.20 Sun Of Spring 4.50 Archello

GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 51-

GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 61.

Right-hand, gall-ping course with very staff 51.

Course is 1m west of town on A1035. Bus service from Beverley rail station (Hull - Scarborough line) 2m. ADMISSION: Club \$12; Junior Club (16 to 21-year-olds) \$8; Tattersalls \$5: Silver Ring \$3; Course Enclosure \$2; Picnic area \$2 or \$3 per car, plus \$2 per occupant. CAR PARE: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Johnston - 20 winners from 122 runners at a ratio of 16.19 giving a return to a \$1 level states of \$0.74; J Berry - 21 winners. 112 runners, 18 84, \$15.16; Mrs J R Rainsden - 17 winners, 10 runners, 17.14, \$10 19; Mrs M Reveley - 17 winners, 112 runners, 15.2%, \$51.88.

LEADING JOCKEYS: K Darley - 56 winners, 234 rides, 23.94, \$42.51; K Fallon - 21 winners, 167 rides, 12.94, \$30.04.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Portuguese Lil (2.20).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Reap Rewards (3.20) won at Ayr on Priday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Prince Foley (3.20) sent 256 miles by W G M Turner from Conton Denham, Somerse.

2.20 ETTON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 100yds Penaity Value £3,457 SNOW CARNIVAL (Lady Herres) Lady Herres 4.9.7 ... 60- TASSELI IRGE (224) (Michael Broke) Lady H

50300- PORTUGUESE I.B. (283) (Mrs Fernanda Windle) J. Eyra 4 9 2 ... (5 ASEF ALMINO (20) Hernden Al Medoum I B Harbury 3 8 10 ... 0 ZIBAR (UEA) (86) (Harman Al Medoum) B Motory 3 8 10 3- CORETTA (215) (Gerald Leigh) L Currant 3 8 5 ... POLITHIKA (Shelikh Mohammed)) Watts 3 8 5...

BETTING: 4-5 Coretta, 9-2 Asef Albind, 8-1 Zibak, 12-1 Snow Carrivel, Tassiil, Portaguese Lii, Polea-

FORM GUIDE

Luca Cumani managed to get one run into CORETTA right at the end of last season and must have been pleased with the filly's third of 23 behind Palisade and Riebeca Sharp. Asef Albhind made a satisfactory debut in the Newmenter maden won by the classy Among Men, and softish ground may have been responsible for him finishing a long way off the winner. Foothul Son, at Newbury, Asef Albhind be the danger to Coretta now he's dropped in class and back on a sound surface. Zibok, in the same ownership as Asef Arbind, is the fourth toal of a mane that has already produced three winners. He can turn out better than he showed in the Newcastle race won by Minersville. This time last year, Portagiases Lil was being prepared for a run in the Derby, having already finished tank of 13 behind Bosra Sharin in the 1,000 Guineas.

2.50 TOUCH ABOVE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £3,345

22-000 GRAND SPLENDOUR (15) (Andy Holden Laby Hernes 4-10-0 D. Holdend 8-20-005 MR TEISH (12) (Patrum Roung Lol) Mrs I Remeaten 5-9-4 J. Fontone 9-20-005 MR TEISH (12) (Patrum Roung Lol) Mrs I Remeaten 5-9-4 Deam McKeown 1-20-005 MR TEISH (12) (Patrum Roung Lol) Mrs I Remeaten 5-9-2 Deam McKeown 1-20-005 MR TEISH (120) (200 Mrs S D Murrey) Mrs M Revelsy 8-8-13 Mrs Deam McKeown 1-20-005 Mrs S D Murrey) Mrs M Revelsy 8-8-13 Mrs Deam 1-20-005 Mrs Mrs Deam 1-20-005 Mrs B D Murrey Mrs Mrs Backery 8-8-13 Mrs Deam 1-20-005 Mrs Deam 1-20-005 Mrs D Murrey Mrs B J Deam 1-20-005 Mrs D Mrs M

- 14 declared
Movement veight; 7st 10th. True handlap veights: Prime Partner 7st 5th, McGillycutdy Recks 7st 28th
BETTING: 9-2 Ribssusartyra Girl, 7-1 Hauelsch, 8-1 Busiara, Escayaffece, Feither Eddle, 10-1 Grand
Sylendour, Mr Teigh, Heighth Of Fama, 12-1 others
1996: Essayeffsee 7 9 2 K Darley 11-10 Sw (Mrs M Revely) drawn (7) 6 ran

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1996: Essayefisee 7 9 2 K Darley 11-10 few (Nes M Reveley) drawn (7) 6 ran

FORM GLIEDE

ESSAYEFFSEE had only five opponents when he won this lest year, but he can still win it again despite finishing in mid-division both starts the year. Essayeffisee does best on fast ground, so conditions were against ham in Effectue? I race at Ripon, and he was denied a ground, so conditions were against him in Effectue? I race at Ripon, and he was denied a ground, so combook rece at Doncaster. Essayeffisee is a shock lower in the handicap than he was when writing here and at Pomeritant last season. Topweight Grand Spitentian he was when writing here and at Pomeritant last season. Topweight Grand Spitentian he was she well beaten in handicaps this year but it might be unwise to rule her out. Subtermate Opalette, also a four-year-old filly, had a similar record prior to beating 16 oth-Stablemate Opalette, also a four-year-old filly, had a similar record prior to beating 16 oth-Stablemate Opalette, also a four-year-old filly, had a similar record prior to beating 16 oth-Stablemate Opalette, also a four-year-old filly, had a similar record prior to beating 16 oth-Stablemate Opalette, also a four-year-old filly, had a similar record prior to beating 16 oth-Stablemate Opalette, also a four-year-old filly, had a similar record prior to beating 16 oth-Stablemate Opalette, also a four-year-old filly, had a similar record prior to beating 16 oth-Stablemate She was made of was number of the opalette, and the opalette of the opalette op

3.20 BRIAN YEARDLEY CONTINENTAL 270 TROPHY STAKES (CLASS B) £15,000 added 270 5f Penalty Value £8,730 O DIBOLA (3) (5 Pedesers) I Warmingt 8 9
C FALIGNBERS (FR) (3) (Bitsh Yeardley Continental List M Johnston 8 9

NEWCASTLE 2.30: 1 ARANTIC VICTAG (D Holand) 11-4: 2, Shegardi 3-10 fay; 3, Jacobian 50-1. 8 ren. 4. 6. (M Johnston). Tota: 53.40; £1.10. £1.10,£9.40. Dual Forecast: £1.20.

Computer Streight Forecast 13.72.
2.00; 1. BOLLEN TERRY (L. Charnool) 512. Atlantic Desire 8.1; 3. Boster 10030. 8 min. 5.2 for Computational (Edit) 2

30. 8 ran. 5-2 fev Super Monarch (5th). 3. 11. (I Easterby). Tota: £6.40; £1.60, £1.80, £1.40. DF. £1.430. CSF. £43.04. Tricast: £1.43.04.

3.30 L PALACEBATE JACK (K Darley) 13-

8 tar, 2. Freetherstone Land 4-1; 3. Here Comed A Star 7-1. 7 raft. 1/2. 2. U Beny). Inter £2.40; £1.50, £2.40. DF: £5.40. CSF: 19.14: NR: Manda 2. Manda 2.

19.14: NR: Needle Match. 4.00: 1 EMERYONIC (G Carter) 3-1; 2

Nontral 9-2; 3. Great Oration 9-2; 5 sen. 6-4 fav Oraque (5th), 2, nt. (Martin Todhurmeri, Totac £4.70; £1.80, £2.60. DF: £5.90, CSP; £15.38. NR: Thurderheart. £ 29-4; pressure marks (1.6-mail 1.6.1).

4.30-1 PRINCE DOME () Caroli 14-1: 2. Aherys Alight 9-4 far, 3. Night Fight 14-1, 8 mm, shi-hd, 3. (Martyn Wone). Total

FORM CUIDE

Jack Berry has hed a serbeck in this race for the last two years, Playmaker and For Old

Times Sake failing to justify favourisors. But Berry won it three years ago with Mind Gemes
and shouldn't be far away with Olev POR GOLD provided he doesn't need the cut in the
ground that he had at Chester. Like Brocklasby Stakes winner Mind Garnes, Only For Gold and shouldn't be far away with ONEY FOR GOLD provided he idean't need the cut in the ground that he had at Chester. Like Brocklesby States winner Mind Garmes, Only For Gold ines up with one win from one run and that care at a time when the Berry two-year-olds weren't really buszing. Chester numer-up Diligence went on to beat Shegarti at Goodwood so the form looks sound. Not that Only for Gold will find this straightforward, because Pristone Foley and Russly Babe are two tough-looking youngsters and Hind Bridge is a possibility. He represents Mick Easterby, second with Blessingindisquise two years ago and successful with Pete Airique in 1993. Prince Foley beat Rustly Babe airnost six lengths at Lecester in April, but Russy Babe came out on top when they met again at Nottingham. Rustly Babe is back over five furforgs after beating filtes over six at Pontefract but it's unlikely that he'll be caugiff out on this stiff track in what could easily be a strongly-run race. Prince Foley has won both starts since his Nottingham distent by Rustly Babe and the way he seemed to find extra when asked for it on the run to the line at Newcastle a fortingist ago was encouraging First time out at Hamilton. Fallecaberg finished 13 lengths of the winner, Colours To Gold, and beat only two home, but the fact that Mark Johnston asks him to take on winners here, rather than go for an ordinary malden, suggests that Fallenberg is considered to be a good deal better than he's shown so far. The yard's juveniles are going very well at presert.

Guineas, while in all, nine win-

have been beaten at odds-on for

Eleven other Guineas win-

the Derby.

3.50 112TH YEAR OF THE WATT MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £5,150

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handloap weight: Spa Lane 7st 7th.
HETTHIG: 8-5 Eagle Camyon, 2-1 Tykeyvor, 3-1 Far Ahead, 12-1 Spa Lane
1996: Tykeyvor 6 9 3 K Darley 7-4 fav (Lady Hemes) drawn (3) 6 ran

Tykeyvor best Ben Henbury's Bardon BM Boy in this race a year ago before going on to win the Bessborough States at Royal Ascot but the Henbury-trained EAGLE CANYON might have the edge today. Considering the lay-off, the big weight and the inadequate trip, Tykeyvor ran well at Kempton, finishing severath to Effectual, but he may just need this, too. It is hard to get comed away by Eagle Carryon's second to Shaffishayes in just a four-runner race at Newcastile but he was at this level in the hendreap when he won at Ripon list, year - by co-bordeance on the same duty that "Retenue win a Accord Ear." Absent win better get 12 fire. Incidence on the same day that Tykeyor won at Ascot. Far Ahead won twice over 12 fur-longs on fast ground at Thirsk last year and the chances are he's fit enough for this following a spat of hundling. He numed out a useful novce, finishing fourth to Sannarimo at Antines. Spat Luries won twice lost season for Peter Malon but he needs to do better following two moderate efforts as a four-year-old.

Selection: EAGLE CANYON

4.20 HURN CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £2,448

SETTING: 6-4 Golden Thunderbolt, 5-2 At Liberty, 7-1 Eden Dancer, Bold Top, 8-1 Sun Of Spring 12-1 Siddiaw Sambu, 33-1 others 1998: Carte Criso 4 7 13 Jo Honnem (7) 10-1 (O Brenzen) drawn (3) 7 ran

1998: Carea Crizo 4 7 13 to Hührem (7) 10-1 (0 Beynam) drawn (3) 7 ran FORM: GL/EDE

The lest time that AT LIBERTY ran in a 12-furing claimer he was besten a short-head by 33-1 shot Carrolia Marc at Southwell, as it's difficult to be confident about him taking this. At least he's back in what looks a more suitable cortest after tacking a handicap and a conditions event and most of today's opposition is suspect one way or another. The trouble with Golden Thuaderhold is that he's done almost all of his racing at around a mile, the top over which he won a Portestract delimer ten days ago. As far as staying a mile and a half is concerned, perhapi Golden Thuaderbolt can be given the benefit of the doubt in this company and the quick responsible on suggests there was nothing sentously wrong when he was only severith to Trojan Hero under ten stone at Leicester on Monday. With At Liberty and Golden Thuaderbolt in the line-up, this could be a signify better contest than that in which Son Of Spring finished third to Lawan at Museaburgh on Saturday. That performence suggests that Sun Of Spring still has what it takes to win a race, and Eden Denoer's neck second to Fatehakhari in a handicap hundle at Sedgefield means he's not a lost cause.

4.50 FIGHAM APPRENTICE MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 5f Penalty Value £2,233 Parmer (5) 1T Siddall 6

- 8 ducianed -BETTING: 13-8 Archello, 9-4 Midnight Shift, 7-1 Good To Tolk, Young Ben, 8-1 Mill End Boy, Rein

1986: Bowciffe Grange 4 8 1 Joanne Webster 5-2 (D Chapman) drawn (7) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE

St. had three files entered but relies on MEDARSHT SHIFT, whose running on third had GUESA from Liver livings of increase out in participants of the first increase from the of the first of t been short of chances. It's difficult to know what to make of Rheinhardt, having his first been short of chances. It's difficult to know what to make of Rheinhardt, having his first race for David Nicholis but also his first race over the minimum mp. Last season, the near est that Good To Talk came to winning a race was when he an Nabcast to three parts of a length in a visor at Rapon, a race in wind-Young Ben (2th better off) was a neck away along Ben beat Good To Talk buce afterwards but finished last in this race 12 months ago. Good To Talk finished last of six in a marker at Cattanck (6f) on Saturday but that could have been a useful pipe-opener and this handloop is more his sort of race. Mill End goly pipe finished last on Saturday, after botting before the start of the rating-related maden won by Toronto, and it wouldn't be a surprise if the consistent Archelle was the one to make a race of it with Michight Shift.

RACING RESULTS

£32.90; £4.10, £1.30, £3.00. DF: £49.50.

Place 6: £29.88. Place 5: £28.51.

WARWICK

2.15: 1. THPFIT BOY (/ Red) 16-1; 2.

Sandside 9-2; 3. Lide 4-6 fax. 9 ran. 1/4,
4. (K McAulfie). Tota: £31.30; £4.20,
£1.80, £1.00. DF; £44.90. CSF; £86.44. Tito:
£36.60. NF: Saffron Lane.
2.45: 1. STANDOWN (/ Fessey) 4-1; 2.

Montande 2-1 fax 3. Semerino 12-1. 9 ran.

2.45: 1. STANDOWN (F Fessey) 4-1; 2. Montendes 2-1 sax; 3. Superino 12-1. 9 ran. 2½, ½. (FBern), Fote: 56.60; 52-70, £1.00, £2.40. DF: £12.10. CSF: £11.48. The: 521.20. NF: White Emir. Civer's Lady (B-1) widnesses not under orders, Rule 4 applies to board prices only, deduct 10p in £. 3.15: 1. LORINS GOLD ON: J Rees] 14-1: 2. Summa Song 11-1: 3. Can-lag-ky 15-2. 13 rail. 13-2 p I say Astern, Zahran (Ath.). ½, 3. (Andrew Turnes). Tota: £16.80; £4.20,

£1.90, £2.30, DF; £104,70, CSF; £135,75.

Tricast: £774.53. Trio: £318.90. 3.45: 1. MAD MELITANT (T Sperke) 11-2: 2. Deward Affail 7-1; 3. San Rockett 16-

1. 8 ran. 3-1 few Sovereign Page (5th). 3%, nk. (A Streeter), Total: £7.30; £2.60, £2.40, £2.60. DF: £17.10, CSF: £39.83. Tricast:

£2.60. Dr: £1/10. Car: £35.05. miles: £527.73. Tric: £34.30. NR: Corne Hill. 4.15: £ HAPPY 60 LUCKY (S Sandes) 6-1: £ Year Tailor 6-11 tay; 3. Tycoca Bid 7-2. 4 ran. 5, 3. (R O'Sullivar), Tota: £4.80. Dr. £2.80. ES: £10.08.

5.15: 1 NOPALEA (S Sandos) 9-4; 2. Blue

won. Pool of £8,041,63 to Beverley roday.

Placepot: £1,214.90. Quadpot: £536.10. Place 6: £1,283,75. Place 5: £968.08.

6.30: 1 MR PARADISE (J D Smith) 3-1; 2. Nerrontan 4-1; 3. Signs And Wonders 8-13 fev. 4 ten. 1/4, 7, (T J Naughton). Tetes £3.30. DF: £9.00. CSF: £13.32. 7.00: 1. MNRPHY'S GOLD (RWInston) 2-1; 2. Tertham 7-4 fav; 3. Pelany 7-2, 4 ran. 1, 1½. (R Fahey). Tote: £2.90. DF: £2.60.

CHESTER 6.40: 1. YORKUES BOY (I. Newton) 5-1: 2. hts May 5-1: 3. Japany Teo 14-1. 9 ran. 3-1 tay Great Lyth Lass (4th). 2h. 1. (B McMs-hor). Tota: £4.90; £1.60, £2.00, £4.10. DF: DF: £2.80. CSF: £10.08.

4.45: L TWIN GREEKS (C Rume) 18-1;

2. Winnestine Wooster 7-2; 3. Delight of Dawn 16-1. 10 ren. 7-4 km Periest Poppy. 2½, ¼. (V Soane). Tota: £26.80; £4.30, £1.30, £3.70. DF: £47.90. CSF: £70.03. Tice: £134.00. £15.80. CSF; £28.23. Inc; £32.80. FOLKESTONE 6.20: 1. MARIAANA (Mas S Samwort)

REVERLEY

6_20: 1. MARIAANA (MSS 5 SERMOTH)
7-4 for; 2. Talchild 3-1; 3. Kenestra 9-4. 8
rsa. 2, 1/4. (P Wahayn). Tota: £1.90; £1.10.
£2.20. OF: £5.10. CSF: £6.27.
8.60: 1. FFESTINGO (T QUIV) 9-0: 2. First Lamp 7-4 fav; 3. Brin-Lodge 50-1. 7 ran. 1½, 6. (1.7 Naughton). Tota: 53.00; £1.60, £1.40. DF: £6.20. CSF: £6.35. Jackpot: not upp. Bool of £8.04; £3. to Beauthar John Dance 9-7; 3. Multiliffenois evens fav. 7 sea. 2½, 1½, (P Cole). Totas: £4.90; £2.00, £1.80. DF: £9.10. CSF: £22.26. YARMOUTH

2.00 Nicker 2.30 Hadadabble 3.00 Free As A Bird 3.30 SONG MIST (nap) 4.00 Moothyeb 4.30 Chabrol 5.00 Utmost Zeal

Clear favourite: Entrepreneur is given one of his final spins on the Newmarket gallops before Saturday's Derby

STALLS: Straight course DRAW ADVANTAGE: None

Left-hand course, level and fair.

Course is N of town on Al 49. Yarmouth station Im. ADMIS-SION: Cub S12 (OAPs S11); Tattersalls S8.60 (OAPs S7.50); Family & course enclusture \$4.50 (OAPs S3.50). CAR PARK: Club S1. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Misterton, Paddy Hurry (2.30); Gresstination (visored, 2.30).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Nahjelsedr (2.30) has been sent 328 miles by A Newcombe from Huntshaw, Devon.

2.00 AMEC PROCESS & ENERGY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 1m RETTING 13.8 Melesia 9.4 Revier, 5.2 Crearante Melesar 5.1 Meles

2.30 FLEGGS SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,875 added 1m

17 040500 DOWN THE WARD (110) (C) (D) M Chapman 47 12 D 0'Sines 16

5.00 HEYDON HALL APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 2f (CLASS 6) £3,000 added 1m 2f
-0.000 UMADST ZEM, (USA) (D) R Guest A 9 10 __luxy Brown (10) 9
-0.000 UMADST ZEM, (USA) (17) Priams 4 9 5 __. C Lowriber 11. B
-0.0030 GOLDEN TOUCH (10) (D) D Congrue 5 9 3. 6 Galliand (8) 1.0
-0.0030 SELECT STAR (2A) A bins 3 8 12 ___. C Canver (9) 8
-0.0030 AFRICAN SUN (3) T Cement 3 8 7 ___. P Clarke (5) 3
-0.0030 AFRICAN SUN (3) M Crepment 4 8 3 ___. Victoria Applety 6
-0.0035 PORCE PRONCESS (9) M Be 3 7 12 ___. Michael Cole (9) 7
-0.0050 ZORRO (26) R M Power 3 7 11 ___. J Williamson 5
-0.0034 ZAMBAN (1) (89) J M Badely 8 7 10 ____. J Fowle (5) 4
-0.000 BAD NEWS (13) J M Badely 5 7 10 ____. P Dec 1
-500504 ACERBUS DULCES (9) M Chapters 6 7 10 .___. S Carson (6) 2
-1. 11 declared 1 3.10 MACLAY BREWERS HANDICAP CHASE

PERTIE: HYPERION 2.10 Dantes Amour 2.40 Chariot Del 3.10 Gyp-

donner (nb) GOING: Good to Firm. Bight-had course with sharp turns. Run-in 280yd.

Right-had course with sharp turns. Run-in 280yd.

Course as 4m N of town on ABS. Perth station (service from Dundee) 4m. ADMISSRON: Members 212; Tatternslüß & Paddock ST (OAPS, junions & Gashled 54); Course 52. CAR PARE: Free. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Acajon III (3.40) won at Uttometer on Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Our Robert (4.40) lus been sent
305 miles by A Streeter from Stramshall, Staffs.

2.10 MACLAY SPECIAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds BETTING: 4-5 China King, 7-4 Dantes Amous, 15-2 besert Devil, 14-1 She's A Wisner, 20-1 Rattle

2.40 SOTHEBY'S STRUTT & PARKER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m

- 7 declared -BETTING: 1,3-8 Uninthers, 2-1 Plantinch, 11-2 Two For One, 10-1 Charlet Del, 12-1 Morkey Wench, 14-1 Restino, 16-1 Just For Me

sy King 3.40 Acajou ■ 4.10 Know-No-No 4.40 Bour-(CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 110yds
1 13411 ACUDU III (FR) (7) (C) 6 Referents 9 12 0 ______ P Camberry

- 5 declared -BETHIG: 13-8 Know-No-No. 3-1 Railegio, 7-2 Crose Cannon, 6-1 Resid Nover, 3-1 Speaker's Hoese, 20-1 Cardenden 4.40 BROADSWOOD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 1 21221. BOURDONNER (42) (CD) M Harmond 5 11 10 Mr C Bonner (3) 31722. OUR ROBERT (13) A Streets 5 11 4. Mr C Bonner (3) 3 31314. RACHAELS OWEN (12) (C) I Gride 7 11 3 ... R McBath (13) 4 33221. HERHLAND WAY (6) M Todrumer 9 11 3 (Seq. ... P Carbony 5 34135. PRESET ROBERT (8) (CD) Me D TROWGO 6 10 7 Mes P Robert 6 0054. REPRICH PROJECT (12) Mes S Bachurre 5 10 0 .G F Ryen (5) — 5 declared — BETTENE: 5-2 Bourdonner, 100-30 Rachael's Owen, 4-1 Gar Robert, 9-2 Highland Way, 5-1 Peggy Bordon, 16-1 French Project

Carberry early warning for McCoy

jump jockeys' title with three a bold bid for the jockeys' March. rides at Perth, including two for championship this term, having Irish trainer Billy Rock.

having his first runners this

The new season reopens this jury-hit 1996-1997. afternoon just five days after the old one closed at Market Rasen. But champion trainer is very confident of being back won the race two years ago. Martin Pipe, who supplied 77 of in action before the end of the McCoy's 190 winners last sea- June. son, waits until Southwell and Worcester on Saturday before

time around. McCoy receives an early in- plates and six pins in his right pearance.

Tony McCoy today starts his dication at Perth today that ri- hand-broken in four places in campaign to win a third straight val Pal Carberry is likely to make a bad fall at Ludlow on 19 Double Trigger is also on the managed 61 winners in an in-

comeback trail. Hopes are rising that Mark Johnston's stay-Their colleague Rodney Far- er will run in the Gold Cup at rant revealed yesterday that he Royal Ascot on 19 June. He

A workout by Double Trigger is planned for Pontefract on But Farrant will return tip- Monday to test his well-being. ping the scales just a bit heav- He has been under a cloud since ier. He has been told he will finishing last in the Sagaro have to keep for good two Stakes at Ascot on his reap-

Harrison on Single **Empire**

David Harrison has been booked to ride Single Empire. the horse he drove to a nose success in the Derby Italiano, in Saturday's Derby. John Reid has opted to partner Peter Chapple-Hyam's other runner, Romanov.

Although Single Empire is a 50-1 chance, Harrison believes he has every chance of reaching the frame on the only colt in the race with winning form over a mile and a half. "He did well to win in Italy

because he got hampered and was taken back by the interfer-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Sun Of Spring (Beverley 4.20) NB: Falkenberg (Beverley 3.20)

ence involving Kieren Fallon," Harrison said, "If Entrepreneur stays he will win, but I have had a good look through the race and I could see Single Empire finishing second or third."

Michael Stoute, Entrepreneur's trainer, will be doublehanded as Tanaasa has been confirmed as a definite starter. Richard Quinn, overlooked for the mount on the third favourite, Benny The Dip, will ride the 100-1 chance.

The racing career of First Island, last year's Sussex Stakes winner, is in doubt after the colt sustained a spiral fracture of the right cannon bone while working on the gallops yesterday.

The Dick Hern-trained Saravir will miss tomorrow's Oaks because of fears that the ground may be too fast.

Rude steward is demoted

John Jenyns, the steward whose brusque treatment of two Channel 4 executives at York last month attracted widespread criticism, has been banned from acting as a chairman of stewards ພານໄດ້ 1999.

Jenyns subsequently resigned from the York stewards' panel and the Jockey Club disciplinary committee met on Monday to consider a letter of complaint from Channel 4 regarding the affair. The committee found Jenyns guilty of an error of judg-ment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

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THE ASHES 97: A stylist from Lancashire refuses to entertain any negative thoughts as he takes on Australia at Edgbaston

Crawley chases new highs for England

hen John Crawley scored 286 for Eng-land A against Eastern Province at Port Elizabeth in 1994, the highest score by an England player on any tour for more than 30 years, it seemed only a matter of time before the full England team would be benefiting from his runs. It has been a matter of time, and patience, and hard work, and even dieting, but the 25-year-old Lancashire batsman now appears to be the genuine

With two Test centuries under his belt, and a style and elegance that will be matched only by Mark Waugh in this Ashes series, Crawley is as confident a character as you are likely to meet. Only the packet of Silk Cut that he rushes off to find after a long, hot day in the field at Leicester could perhaps be perceived as a sign of tension in his armoury as he looks forward to today's match.

"I've never played at Edg-baston in a Test," he says. "I've hatted against Warne quite a bit. He's a phenomenal bowler really, without doubt the best ally, without doubt the best himself, big leg-spinner in the world, which brother has is saying something. McGrath nevertheless I haven't really faced that much but he's got a great record so he's bound to be a danger. They're a strong side, probably the best in the world."

For an England player, Craw-ley's CV is about as complete as it could be. Like the captain, Mike Atherton, he went from Manchester Grammar to captain Cambridge University. Then it was England Under-19, England A and finally his Test debut against South Africa at Lord's in 1994. He was in and out of the side over the next two years, but after reaching three figures for the first time, against

Adam Szreter meets a batsmen with a classic pedigree confident of helping his country succeed in today's crucial Test series opener

fact that you're playing a coun-

ty XI means it's a pretty decent

standard attack you're facing

there was very slow, very low.

had to come back to Lancashire

es, which I prefer to bat on

anxious to play down the sig-

nificance of that day and admits

ally, because there was so much

written after that A tour," he

said. "The standard of the

teams we played in South Africa

was actually very poor. I think only Orange Free State and

Northern Transvaal had what

they would call a full XI, and al-

though you've got to get runs,

the runs I got on that tour were

That was the only time re-

to having felt the pressure.

After cap-

taining the

England Un-

der-19 side in a

tralian team

that included

Greg Blewett, Michael

and Adam Gilchrist of the

Kasprowicz

mer, he was a regular and in- place to start playing. A lot of creasingly reassuring presence

at No 6 during the winter. At the moment cricketing brothers are all the rage, and Crawley himself is the youngest of three. Mark, the eldest, capmost of the time. The only problem was that the pitch tained Oxford when Atherton captained Cambridge. He went on to play for Lancashire and Nottinghamshire, while Peter, the middle brother, played under John's captaincy at Camand adjust to the quicker pitchbridge. Mark Crawley is now a for-

апуwау. eign securities trader in the City - "I don't 'We're going to really delve too go out all guns much into that, it's all too comfiring, and if plicated for me," says John things go right and although he never played we can put one for England over on them'

made a significant contribution to his country's cause. "He gave me a role model to follow," John Elizabeth. Crawley, however, is

"He was always four or five years ahead of me so I could set my targets and aims four or five years into the future. I followed his career closely and then tried to match it or do better whenever I could. I don't think we played any first-class matches together, but I might be mistaken," he added.

Looking back to his days at Cambridge, where he read history at Trinity College, Crawley said: "Cambridge is a good probably overvalued a little bit.

"I was lucky enough to get se-lected in the England side the following summer against South Africa, but I then had a very sketchy year. I had some good knocks on the Australian tour but my technique was not quite prepared for Test

people frown upon it and say it's "Everything has to be at a maximum level in Test cricket. a weak standard of cricket, the counties don't try. But the mere Generally the standard of bowling is so much better than any domestic cricket anywhere and you've got to play straight, very simply, and defend with soft hands. They're the things I so every year in early July I

The Ashes tour to Australia in 1994-95 was not exactly a picnic for any of the England players, but according to some sections of the media, Crawley was still tucking into more than his fair share of the hamper. His fielding came in for heavy criticism and, hard though it is to believe of someone as wiry as Crawley, it led to accusations of

a weight problem.
"I'll start off by saying I wasn't as mobile then as I am now, because I was carrying about three-quarters of a stone extra. It's not that much. I dropped a catch in a Test match somewhere and there was bad press for being a bad fielder, and then it was just a general vicious circle. They all latched on to it and criticised me for being a lardy, overweight pig really. But none of them printed a picture or anything, which was a little bit weak on their behalf [

thought.' But was it true that a special diet then followed? "In a way, yeah. Just eating sensibly, drink-ing a bit less, training twice a day for two months. Nothing espe-cially mind-boggling really. But after watching the South Africans field, I knew the standard of fielding that you need-



Crawley displays his confidence in the nets in preparation for the first Test yesterday

in between. But he admits to no

SOMERSET – First kunings M N Lathwell c Gallian b Ma

Litumer lbw b Channie

P C McKeown b Rose

cation probably lies somewhere

ed to be at and I definitely feel much better now than I did

preference, and whenever the time comes for him to enter the Crawley, who bats at No 3 for Lancashire, is unlikely to bat higher than six for England in arena all negative thoughts will be far from his mind. "There's a national desire for the Engthis match, though his true vo-

land cricket team to do well, which is natural, and if you're picked for your country you're going to give it everything, whatever happens.

"You can play good cricket and still lose or draw, but we're

going to go out all guns firing from the first ball at Edgbaston and if things go right, if we catch our catches, get runs on the board and 20 wickets in the game, then we can put one over

Photograph: David Ashdown

Hampshire rocked by Rollins

reports from Chesterfield Derbyshire 357-6 v Hampshire

Adams, Adman Rollins had no apologies to make to anyone yesterday. With only 51 runs in seven Championship innings behind him, he seized the moment - a blissful day, a decent pitch and an accommodating, if hard working, attack – and bat-

ted all day for an unbeaten 149. Rollins knows more than most how thin the line is between success and failure. On Monday he was cut off in full flow against the Australians when ludicrously given out lbw to a ball which pitched outside leg stump. Here, Bovill's first over of the day.

he almost failed to survive James with a push into the covers, he

reports from The Foster's Oval

Not so much a dog day, more

a dogged stay. Darren Robin-

son defied an initially hostile

Surrey attack for the best part

of two sessions to vindicate the

decision of the Essex acting cap-

tain, Graham Gooch, to bat, But

Gooch himself perished to the

The Surrey teenager Alex Tu-

dor capped a fine opening spell

by bowling the England bats-

man-turned-selector. Mind you

Gooch did not give up his wick-

et meekly, helping himself to

three genuine boundaries and

having his score boosted by

four overthrows, courtesy of an

Others perished, too, as each

injudicious shy at the stumps.

Surrey bowler picked off a vic-

tim. But Robinson stuck to his

DAVID LLEWELLYN

Essex 347

Surrey 0-0

new order.

was sent back and probably only made it because the throw left Adrian Avmes with too much to do. After that, the pair went their separate ways, Aymes to keep wicket immaculately, Rollins to bat with a

Unlike his colleague Chris growing full-bladed authority. Rollins has not always done restricted footwork causes him to play across the line, which is not recommended against the new ball. But Hamnshire offered him shortness and width that enabled him to give the ball a resounding whack off the back foot and he never looked back.

At one point, with Adams bludgeoning the bowling off the front foot, they scored 124 in 24 overs. Hampshire probably half expected that after winning the toss and their decision to bowl first probably owed something to thoughts of batting last on this Adams continued his event- to complete the catch.

Robinson stands up to Surrey

task and clung to his wicket. He

had made just 24 by lunch, ac-

celerating after the interval as

Surrey struggled to find the

right length. For a vegetarian,

that sort of bowling is meat and

drink to Robinson. He gradu-

ally put the flesh on on the bare

certainly apposite. Robinson

has a few meaty shots and there

were some particularly sump-

tuous drives through the offside

during his four-hour stay. There

were a couple of chances when

he was on 37 and 75 but he rode

his luck well. It was cruel that

he fell when he did - a tanta-

lising two runs away from what would have been a deserved

third first-class century. Ap-

propriately it was Tudor who did

for him, inducing the batsman

to present the wicketkeeper,

James Knott, with his first catch

in the Championship. By then,

His nickname, "Pie Shop", is

bones of the Essex innings.

ful week by at last accepting Derbyshire's decision to fine him for dissent when given out lbw by the umpire Vanburn Holder against the Australians. He also issued a belated public apology, although his explanation that the incident was "a unique situation which occurred only out of to himself such justice. Sometimes tal confusion" will bring only hol-

> low laughter from cricketers and umpires of all standards. That behind him, Adams strode out to make 79 off 78 balls, another cameo innings which illustrated both his strength - in every sense of the word - and his weakness. Some of his driving was terrific, but his bat was also passed and he got himself out when a century before lunch seemed his for the taking. Driving at an outswinger from Simon Renshaw, he was spectacularly taken at slip. where Shaun Udal knocked

Trying to get off the mark pitch against a seam-heavy attack, the ball up for Matthew Hayden

placed him, he carried on the

good work, growing in confi-

dence after tea as he reached his

second half-century in his third

Championship innings of the

season. The fact that he has a

fractured left index finger which

had delayed his first first-team

appearance this season did not

seem to bother Rollins. He has

put off an operation until the

on the faces of the Surrey field-

ers as Rollins drove Essex to-

wards a third batting point.

Sadly Rollins could not stay to

see them through the 300 bar-

rier - it took a chirpy knock by

the tail-ender Ashley Cowan to

do that. He frustrated Surrey for

three-quarters of an hour as he

thumped a jaunty 38, including

a monster six off Ian Salisbury's

leg spin and half a dozen other

boundaries. Joey Benjamin mopped up to finish with 3 for 52, Tudor's 21 overs yielding 77

runs for his two wickets.

The only pain in evidence was

end of the summer.

Britannic Assurance County Championship

Derbyshire v Hampshire CHESTERFIELD: Derbyshire (4pts) are 361 for 7 in their first lunings against Hampshire *** (J Barnett c Aymas b Bowll \ S Rollins not out

HAMPSHRE: M L Hayden, S J Renshaw, K D James, J S Laney, R A Smith, W S Kendall, "J P Stephenson, tA N Aymes, D Udaf, A D Mascarenhas, J N B Bowal, Umpires: G Sharp and K E Palmer.

Durham v Sussex CHESTER-LE-STREET: Sussex (3pts) are

SUSSEX First Innings
SUSSEX - First Innings
N J Lenham low b Brown
K Greenfield c and b Foster ...
N R Taylor c Speight b Walker
C W J Athey c Speight b Betts otal (for 7, 104 overs).......314 all: 1-96, 2-153, 3-177, 4-202, 5-250.

owling: Brown 29-5-82-2; Betts 15-0-1-1: Saggers 18-2-46-1; Walker 24-8-8-1: Foster 18-8-53-2. 68-1: Poster 18-8-53-2. DURHAM: J J B Levis, M A Roseberry, J E Morrs, N J Speak, *D G Boon, rfM P Spegfit, M J Foster, M M Betts, S J E Brown, M J Saggers, A Walkar, Urripires: J C Balderstone and D J Constant

Kent v Warwickshire TUNBREDGE WELLS: Kent (Apts) are 284 runs behind Warwickshire (3) with all first-innings wickets standing.

3 Welch low b Llong VM K Smith low b Philips IT Flost not out VD Edmond c Wells b Thompson G C Small c Wells b Thompson ... Extras (b4, |b10, ab4)

CRICKET SCOREBOARD Middlesex v Leicestershire

LORD'S: Lakestershire (2pts) are 267 for 7 in their first innings against Middlesex ershire won toss

To bat: M T Brimson Bowing: Fraser 27-5-70-4; Hewitt 23-7-58-1; Johnson 18-2-84-0; Weekes 10-2-16-1; Tufnell 26-13-32-1.

Fall: 1-38.
To bet: N H Fairbrother, G D Lloyd, *M Watturson, I D Austin, tW N Hegg, G Keedy, P J Martin.
Bowling: Van Troost 3-0-21-0; Shine 5-1-13-0; Mushtaq 6-5-1-0; Rose 2-0-5-1.
Umpires: J D Bond and N T Plews. Surrey v Essex NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire (Lpt) are 226 for 9 in their first imings against Nottinghamshire (4) Northants v Nottinghamshire THE POSTER'S OVAL: Surrey (4pts) are 347 runs behind Essex (3) with all first-limings wickets standing. Esses won toss Nottinghamshire (4). Northamptonshire won toss NORTHAMPTONSHIRE - First Inning D D J Robinson c Knott b Tudor . Grayson c Brown b Benjamin R C Iran b Holioche
S D Peters Ibw b Salisbury
D R Law c Knott b Ratcliffe
IR J Rollins Ibw b Salisbury
A R Law c Knott b Ratcliffe

Ripley c Noon b Pick ... J E Emburey b Bowen J P Taylor not out Mohammad Akram not out

Somerset v Lancashire TAUNTON: Lancashire (4pts) are 61 runs behind Somerset (4) with nine second-innings wickets standing. LANCASHIRE - First lonings JER Galilan c Burns b Shine S P Titchard low b Shine P C McKeown lbw b Shine N H Fairbrother b Shine G D Lloyd c Turner b van Troost

SURREY - First innings D J Bicknell not out I D K Salishury not out Yorkshire v Glouceste

HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire (4pts) are 78 runs behind Gloucestorshire (3) with four first-innings wickets standing. Gloucestershire won toss GLOUCESTERSHIRE - First lanings

YORKSHIRE - First Innings

*D Byas c Hancock b Smith .
D S Lehmann c Ball b Smith .
B Parker Rive b Smith White c and b Alleyne P J Hardey b Lewis ... G M Hamilton not out

Total (60.2 overs) 189
Felt 1-34, 2-113, 3-113, 4-130, 5-136, 6-148, 7-148, 8-164, 9-189, 8twing: Martin 16-5-29-4; Chapple 18-1-80-4; Austin 16.2-5-33-2; Gallian 6-0-22-0; Watkinson 3-0-10-0; Keedy 10-6-0 114.
To bat: C E W Silverwood, R D Stemp.
Bowling: Smith 14-6-31-3: Levis 12-3-34-2: Young 9-3-31-0; Alleyne 5-2-11-1: Hancock 3-0-11-0: Ball 1-0-4-0. Umpires: J H Hampshire and T E Jesty,

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of three; today 11.0); Mord: Essex 350 for 7 dec (A J E Hibbert 64, J C Powell 54, D G Wilson 57no), Warwickshire 30 for 2. Southampton: Surrey 299 (I J Ward 61, S M Milbum 4-69), Hampshire 50 for 2. Swanses: Glamorgan 183 (A L Penberthy 4-47, K J Innes 4-48). Northammership swansee: Glamorgan 183 (A L Perberthy 4-47, K J Innes 4-48). Northamptonshire 100 for 3. Lansbury CC; Middlese, 366 for 6 dec IS A Selwood 88no, A W Lanman 67no, D J Goodchild 53), Durham 19 for 0. Gloucester: roll-shire 370 for 9 dec IR A hettleborough 146, M J Wood 127, M P Hurt 6-871, Gloucestershire 14 for 0. Kidderminster (Second day of four): Somerset 557 In D Sutton 75, H R J Timmp 56no). Worcestershire 352 for 6 LK R Shire. 56no), Worcestershire 352 for 5 iK R Spar-ring 84, J R A Williams 68, I Darwood 85no;

First Test (First day of five, including Sunday; 11.0-EDGBASTON: England v Australia.

OTHER FIRST-CLASS MATCH (The Parks first day of three; 11.0): Oxford University Glamorgan, AON RISK TROPHY (One day; 11.0): Old Trafford: Lancashire v Nothinghamshire

> TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of boxing match es Joe Bugner has fought since turning professional in 1967, for fowing his victory over the Fijian champion Walsiki Ligaloa in Gold Coast, Australia. The seventh-round knock-out took the 47-year-old's record to 65 wins,

Lancashire are skittled

out for 88

ROUND-UP

As a small ground, Taunton is often associated with batting got their own back as Lanashire were bowled out for only 88 and then Somerset came and went for 189. By the close. Lancashire had at least started to restore normal sevice by reaching 40 for 1 in their sec-

ond innings. Kevin Shine made hay, destroving Lancashire's first efort by taking 7 for 43 in 11.1 overs. The rot set in with his second ball and he ended the innings just before 12.50pm when Peter Martin was taken at square

leg.
Shine did something very similar at Old Trafford five years ago, when he took 8 for 47 there for Hampshire. Somerset did not exactly fins

things a breeze when they tried their luck on the brown strip. Glen Chapple and Peter Martin took full advantage of the swing that was available and nicked up four wickets each. Peter Bowler was the only batsman to reach fifty on the day, managing 53. Wickets fell at Headingley

oo, but there a spiteful pitch claimed 16 victims rather than the 21 who could not cope with Taunton's strip. Gloucester-shire were bowled out for 205 and then reduced Yorkshire to 127 for 6 by the end of a tense first day.

Extra bounce from not much short of a length unsettled all the batsmen, who were also illequipped to deal with the numerous deliveries scuttling through at ankle beight.

The most serious victim was the Yorkshire opener, Michael Vaughan, who took a blow from Mike Smith on his left wrist when 15 and retired with 📲 , cracked bone that could keep him out of action for up to three

though, he had done enough. When Robert Rollins re-S Young fow b Hardey *M W Alleyne c Blokey b Hardey

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13 defeats and one draw.

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THE REAL PROPERTY AND Other sports

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sport

Wainwright lets the Lions loose

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT reports from Witbank Mpumalanga

Fran Cotton's unbeaten Lions arrived on the high veld fully expecting the red mist to descend over the Johann van Riebeeck Stadium. As it turned out, Mpumalanga generated nothing more frightening than the smoke of a thousand barbecues and in the space of 20 extraordinary minutes, the upcountry hard-nuts of the South-Eastern Transvaal found themselves blown away by some very special rugby indeed.

Anyone tempted to write off Rob Wainwright, the Lions' blind-side flanker, following his travails in the swamplands of East London a week ago was forced to think again as Scot-land's national captain ran in a startling hat-trick of tries be-fore the end of the opening

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The wings, Ieuan Evans and Tony Underwood, then found their stride with two tries apiece and with Matt Dawson, Neil Jenkins and Nick Beal also picking routes through a bemused and befuddled home defence, there was little for Mpumalanga to do but snarl

about in search of the odd smidgen of mayhem. Sadly, they achieved some-

thing in that direction. Elandre van der Bergh, the culprit when Jon Callard was badly disfigured in Port Elizabeth in 1994, re-con-firmed his position of high office in the Head-kickers' Convention by "river dancing" all over Wainwright at a 24th-minute ruck. His second-row partner, Marius Bosman, also made a mark of sorts by stamping on Doddie Weir's left knee - an act that may threaten the Scotsman's tour and so incensed the Lions' management that they immediately mustered arms for a diplomatic incident. "The stamp on Doddie was a cold-blooded act totally out of context with the game, said an incandescent lan McGeechan, the Lions coach. "Under the terms of the tour agreement we cannot cite the offender because the incident was dealt with by the referee, but the fact remains that Doddie has a medial ligament injury that may

prove very serious." Still, nothing could detract from a performance of high quality from the tourists and happily, given events in the north island of New Zealand four years ago, the foundations were laid by a tight unit of celtic persuasion. If ever three Irishmen and a pair of Scots re-established some tarnished

reputations, it was here yesterday. Back in 1993, their immediate Lions ancestors turned their backs on the red jersey and allowed Waikato to inflict one of the most humiliating defeats in the history of British Isles tour parties. This time, it was a different story.

Tom Smith, the new David Sole from north of the border, may well have played himself into the Test team with a solid scrummaging performance allied to some dynamic support work in open field. His fellow prop. Paul Wallace, also made inroads with the selectors with a rich display of skilled ball-handling far beyond the scope of most British tight forwards. "The continuity from the loose forwards has been in evidence all tour," said Tim Rodber, the captain. "What we were able to draw on this time was a very strong contribution from the tight forwards."

Wainwright's remarkable burst of scoring effectively killed the game before anyone had broken sweat. Intelligent co-operation between Neil Back and Allan Bateman, plus an elusive run from Evans, opened the door for the first try in the 11th minute, while the second had more to do with muscle as the lean Watsonian wrestled his way over from close-range on 15. Two minutes later, Wain-

Rob Wainwright dives over to score his third try during the Lions' impressive win yesterday wright employed his natural the restart, by which time pace to capitalise on Keith

Wood's pop-pass and gallop in Further scores arrived at regular intervals, Dawson and Underwood crossing before the

break. Underwood took ad-

vantage of Evans' clever angle

Moumalanga were dead in the water. Next up are the Blue Bulls of Northern Transvaal. They will not have enjoyed what they saw yesterday.

Mpumalanga: Tries Venrengint 3, Under-wood 2, Evans 2, Dawson, Jentens, Real: Con-vendous Jertens 7. to rub it in within a minute of

van As, D van Zyr, H Swart, H Kemp, A Botha, M Bosman, E van der Bergh, F Rossouw, T Oost-hurzen (capt: J Beukes, 71), P Joubert.

Autor M. Benal (Note: Note: No

Adedayo Adebayo will play in the second Test in Argentina on jury the wing picked up in Tues-

Saints all keyed up for the **Kiwis**

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

St Helens and their captain. Bobbie Goulding, will be stimulated by revenge when they kick-off the World Club Championship against Auckland Warriors tomorrow night.

"Six St Helens players have come off a tour to New Zealand. where we got our hottoms kicked 3-0." said Goulding at the launch of the tournament yesterday. "We are still smart-ing from what a lot of these Auckland players did to us."

The Auckland coach, Frank Endacott, will have two of those players, Matthew Ridge and Steve Kearney, back after being rested at the weekend.

Perth Reds, who start their campaign at Castleford on Sunday, have sprung a surprise by leaving their resident Englishman. Barrie-Jon Mather, back in Western Australia.

Mather, who played for Great Britain on last year's Kiwi tour, played for Reds' reserves at the weekend and failed to win a place in the squad

to travel to Europe.
"I would have liked to have him here, because he would have been very good from a promotional point of view, the Reds' coach, Dean Lance, said.

"But unfortunately his form hasn't been up to scratch since he had a groin operation. It comes down to whether you want a good profile or to win

bledon, none of which he could Lidden returning after injury.

Also on Sunday, Cronulla, one of the favourites, go to troubled Warrington, with their most experienced player, Andrew Ettingshausen, warning

of the games. I think they are

gramme until next week.

Sheringham's snub to £4m

Football

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham llotspur manager, yesterday aid he was disappointed that Teddy Sheringham had decided to leave after rejecting a fourcar-contract that would have carned the striker £1m a year.

As details emerged from Spurs of the talks that ended with the England forward, who still has two seasons of his contract to run, asking for a transfer, Francis said: "It is very disappointing that negotiations have broken down. The club have tried very hard to agree something with Teddy.

We didn't have to offer him nything, but obviously a four-

year deal was not enough." According to Tottenham, the 31-year-old Sheringham, who could now end up partnering his England co-striker, Alan Shearer, at Newcastle United, wanted a five-year deal which would have qualified him for a 10-year testimonial.

The Spurs chairman, Alan Sugar, was reluctant to commit the club to paying a 36-year-old player a £1m salary, so Sheringham asked for time to consider. When Sugar had received no reply after 48 hours, he scrapped the offer and replaced it with a three-year deal.

Sheringham, who had "done what I had to do" after Sugar's action, also cited Spurs lack of success as a factor in his decision to move on

Arsène Wenger returned to Monaco yesterday to take two of his former players to Highbury. Arsenal are understood to have paid £5m for the leftflank man Emmanuel Petit and the central defender Gilles Grimandi, who are both 26.

The versatile Petit, who has won 15 caps for France but is out of the current reckoning, can play at the back or in midfield. The pair played prominent roles when Monaco put Newcastle out of the Uefa Cup

quarter-finals in March. Martin O'Neill has closed the door on any approach from managerless Everton by signing a new three-year contract at Leicester City. The 45-yearold O'Neill, who joined Leicester 18 months ago and led them to promotion to the Premiership via the play-offs, is now free of distractions as he prepares to take his Coça-Cola Cup winners

Nottingham Forest have completed the signing of the Watford goalkeeper Kevin Miller, whose fee will be decided by a tribunal. Forest have lost Alf Inge Haland to Leeds United. The Norwegian midfielder will report to Elland Road next week when he returns from international duty. Haland is out of contract and, if football's governing bodies de-cide to extend the Bosman ruling to domestic transfers, Leeds may get him for free, although

Forest want £2m.

Burnley have signed the Dutch defender Marco Gentile, 28, from MVV Maastricht on a free transfer.

The Football Association is to hold an inquiry a week today into last season's Second Division match between Chesterfield and Plymouth Argyle. when five players were sent off. Both clubs were charged with misconduct and failure to control their players, but the hearing was delayed because of Chesterfield's FA Cup run, which took them to the semi-

Sprint showdown a 'circus'

Athletics

The head of track and field's world governing body has crit-icized the 150-metre match race between Donovan Bailey and Michael Johnson as "a circus and said a rematch would not be sanctioned.

Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, said last Sunday's showdown at Toronto's Skydome went outside the IAAF's rules by having just two runners, instead of at least four.

"Some people have already talked about a rematch in Las Vegas," Nebiolo was reported as saying yesterday. "You can forget about that under these conditions. Our federation will not give authorisation and. without that, you can't do anything. This is not sports as entertainment, but more like something out of a circus. And we're not interested in it."

Bailey, the Olympic 100-metre champion, won Sunday's race as Johnson, the 200 and 400 champion, pulled up halfway with a quadriceps injury.

The Canadian's approach to the event has been heavily criticised by Michael Johnson's coach. He has described the coach and staff who handle Bailey as "about as low as you can get" if they had ordered the world 100 metres record holder to go out fast and try to force Johnson to hurt himself.

"His [Bailey's] coach was quoted in a Toronto paper in detail as saying that's what their game plan was," Clyde Hart, the head coach at Baylor Universi-ty, said at the US collegiate championships in Bloomington, Indiana. "If that's the case, that's about as low as you can get."

Rafter breaks new ground

JOHN ROBERTS reports from Roland Garros

Pat Rafter, in common with Rod Laver, learned to play tennis on crushed antbeds in Queensland. Chance proving to be a fine thing at this year's French Open, Rafter trusts that his run of form on the clay courts of Paris will enable him to become the first Australian men's singles finalist since Laver defeated his compatriot Ken Rosewall in 1969.

Laver's triumph - the second leg of his second Grand Slam brought five consecutive years of Australian domination to a close. Overall, Australians have won the men's singles 11 times, one more than the United States, France and Sweden.

Rafter's path to emulating the feats of his predecessors is blocked by Spain's Sergi Bruguera - the only remaining seed (No 16) and the winner of the title in 1993 and 1994 - and one of tomorrow's other semifinalists, Filip Dewulf, a Belgian

qualifier, and Gustavo Kuerten, the colourful Brazilian. While Rafter's serve-volley

ame baffled Galo Blanco, of Barcelona, in the quarter-finals yesterday, 6-3, 7-6, 6-3, the 24-year-old Australian is well aware that his record against Bruguera is not exactly a confidence-booster. The Spaniard, who overcame

Hicham Arazi of Morocco yesterday, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, has won all but the last of his six previous matches against Rafter - and that one was played on concrete in Cincinnati last August. Rafter has not even salvaged

a set in their four matches on clay, two of which were at the French Open (1994 and 1995). Bruguera also won their one encounter on grass, 13-11 in the fifth set of an epic in the fourth round at Wimbledon in 1994.

"I'm going to keep serve-volleying against him," Rafter says, "but I think I'm doing it a little bit better now than I was in '94 and '95. He's going to have to hit a few more balls past me." The Australian appears to be

more at ease with his game nowadays, summarising his approach to the European clay court season by saying. The best advice I gave myself was that I was coming here for three weeks off. Clay court? Another break,

another holiday for me."

He was only half joking. After reaching the final in St Pölten, Austria, the weekend before the French Open, he realised he might be busier here in Paris than usual. Had nobody ever told him that you cannot win this tournament by serving and volleying? "No, they said: 'If the sun shines, you've got a good chance'."

Perhaps, but he is still convincing himself. "Never have I ever thought of reaching this far in the French Open. I'm sort of more amazed than anything. Things are going great. The next It's an opportunity for me to

make the finals." What he has achieved already to probably a seeding for Wimhave imagined at the beginning of the year, when rehabilitating from a wrist injury.

His fortunes changed for the better after he staged a re-

markable comeback from two sets to love down to defeat Cedric Pioline during Australia's Davis Cup win against France, the holders, in Sydney. 'It was a huge moment." he

said. "It was the first time I ever came back from two sets to love down. Now when I do go out there and lose a first set, go down a break in the second, it's not a panic stage for me. I know I've been able to do it, and I feel confident of doing it again. I think that was one of the really important things I got out of that match."

Whatever happens in the match is another tough one. First Test at Edgbaston today, Again, it's winnable. He can also Australia's second test will be on beat me, so I'm aware of that. a tricky strip in Paris tomorrow. Tim Henman, the British No 1, yesterday signed the biggest sponsorship contract ever awardwill lift his ranking from No 25 ed to a British player in a five-year deal to use Slazenger racquets.

England are confident that

Saturday, despite the ankle in-

football matches." Perth will play a Castelford side without the veteran. Graham Steadman, but with Jason

them not to take British opposition too lightly. The competitiveness of

British sides has changed remarkably since I was at Leeds in 1985," he said, "I don't think there's going to be a lot in any all going to be pretty close."
While other British clubs are

preparing for matches against international opposition, most of Sheffield's Super League squad will face a less exotic challenge - from Workington Town reserves.

Their coach, John Kear, is chastising eight members of the first team beaten 32-12 at London last Friday by including them in the Alliance team to play in Cumbria tomorrow night. Sheffield do not start their World Club Championship pro-

Philipson pulls the plug on favourites

ANDY FARRELL

reports from Royal St George's

Like the French Open tennis, the opening rounds of the Amateur Championship had their fair share of shocks. At least some of those here were caused by a fully qualified electrician. Shaun Philipson last night checked back into his hotel in Deal and today will play Michael Brooks, the son of the club professional here, in the third round.

The 33-year-old Geordie. who needs to take a holiday to

Athletics

members of the Walker Cup squad, Shaun Webster and Graham Rankin. Refusing to give then saw the 31-year-old Scot levup at three down with four to play, Philipson fought back to beat Webster, the reigning English champion, at the 19th hole.

Rankin, winner of the Lytham Trophy last month, was described by Brooks as the best player in Britain the way he has been playing". "On his day, Graham will beat me eight es out of 10, but he had a slightly off day," Philipson said. It was a murky day, with hard-

compete in tournaments, short- ly a hint of the sun glinting off circuited the hopes of two the cooling towers of Richbor- when Philipson spun his five- Justin Rose and Jose Manuel ough Power Station, Philipson was four up after seven holes but el the match at the 15th. Rankin holed from 20 feet on the fringe to sneak ahead at the 17th, but then bunkered his approach at the last from the fairway.

Philipson had pulled his drive into the rough, but his "swipe with a nine-iron" was effective enough to find the green and keep the match alive. At the 19th, Philipson remarkably holed from 35 feet, forcing Rankin to follow him in from 15

hole at the 20th. Jody Fanagan, like Rankin a member of the 1995 winning

Walker Cup team, contrived a defeat when he bogeyed the last five holes to go from three up with three to play to lose at the 20th to an American. Steve Sheehan, the brother of Solheim Cup player Patty.

Despite not being a member of the club, Brooks took the largest following on an interesting journey, having been two down with five to play before

Justin Rose and Jose Manuel iron back to within a foot of the Lara meet this morning in a repeat of their encounter in the recent England-Spain international when Rose, who is 17 next month, was five under par and birdied three of the last four holes to win by one hole.

Greg Norman has turned down a lucrative offer to face Tiger Woods in a head-to-head challenge for television. Norman said he declined the chance of a best-of-three challenge against the US Masters champion because the timing of the event was not suitable.

Two-year ban for Saunders He must make himself avail-Basketball

The English Basketball Association has slapped a two-year ban on the National League's alltime leading scorer, Russ Saunders, for taking cocaine but has offered the 39-year-old a quicker route back by taking part in drugs awareness programmes.

writes Richard Taylor. The ban is the longest in Budweiser League history, and dates Thom March this year when Saunders played for Chester Jets and tested positive in a random check. But the ban is suspended from January 1998 if Saunders satisfies various conditions.



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able for random drug tests whenever required, continue with a programme of rehabilitation Equestrianism and counselling and take part in

drugs awareness programmes and presentations organised by both the League and the EBA. The EBA administrator, Andrew Matthews, said: "Russ indicated he will be very happy to held at Burghley from 11 to 14 do so. He's very remorseful September, writes Genevieve about the incident and feels he has let the sport down."

Saunders, born in Brooklyn, joined Birmingham in 1982, was the League's Player of the Year in 1983 and 1995 and has been on seven League all-star teams. TODAY'S FIXTURES and King Solomon III (the win-

Speedway ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich v Braciford (7.30). PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield v Reading AMATEUR LEAGUE: loswich and King's Lynn

Other sports BOXING: Europeen Junior Championships quarter-finals (National Indoor Arena, Birm-ingham). GOLF British Ameteur Championship (Roy-al St George s). Staley Hall Grand Prix of Eu-rope (Staley Hall, Hecham). Women's amateur international Great British & Int-land v South Africa (Letham Grange).

MOTORCYCLING: Isle of Man Tourist Trophy Races. TENNIS: Surrey International Championships

Funnell set to fulfill senior ambition

Both Mary King and Pippa Punnell have two horses on the long list for the European Open Three-Day Event Championships, which will be

Murphy. King, who was part of the British team that won the European title two years ago, is listed with Star Appeal (the winner at Burghley last year and runner-up at Badminton in May)

ner at Blenheim last year and at Saumur in France in April). Funnell has not yet ridden on a senior team. Now aged 28, she most have an excellent chance of fulfiling that ambition with either Bits and Pieces (fourth at Burghley and ninth at Badminton) or Designer Tramp (runner-up at Punchestown in Ireland this year).

As host nation, Britain will be able to send 12 riders to Burghley: a squad of six, from which the team of four will be chosen, plus an extra six to compete as

SPORTING DIGEST

ACHIECTICS

ACHIEC mer did not flare up again.

Andreas Burlacu, the Romanian world junior 400 metres champion, has been banned for two years after testing pos-tive for the steroid nandrolons. Baseball AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 9 Detroit 8; Sest-tie 6 Toronto 3; Chesigo White Sox 9 Caveland 5; Butterore 7 New York Yankoos 5 (20 Innings); Musquisee 6 Boston 4; Munasota 5 Texas 4; Kansas City 5 Anaham 2. MATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 9 Roide 1 (6 Irango); Houston 4 Los Angeles 3 (10 Irango); St Lous 35 Colorado 4; Pateouga 3 Cheago Cubs 1; Cancarnat 3 Prispolopia 2: San Dego 5 Au-lente 2; New York Wass 2 Montreal 1.

TUESDAY'S LATE RESILE!: Aum Rick Trophy (one dept: Medion Mowhaty: Leicestershire 229 for 7 (is Roberson 74no); Moror Courties 227 for 7 (A D Masseon 73, P. & Hignett 55; A Thomas 4-25), Laicestershire won by two mas.

CYCHING
GIRO DYTRIJA 18th single (40km time trist).
Beseige of Pine to Cavalese): 1 S Gortchar (Uni
Ali 47mm 18ses; 2 Y Sezer (Rus) 8sth + 1min
Osses; 3 B Boscardin (Swo) Festma +1:31: 4 P
Padmos (12 Rep) Rosiotio +1:54; 5 J Rubera
(Sp) Neime +2:06; 8 D Zenetre (ii) Ali +2:27;
7 P Tonkov (Rus) Mages +2:30; 8 P Savodeini
(ix) Rosiotio +2:33; 9 G Guerm (II) Polt same
time; 10 G Perdomenco (IV) Castina Tolio
+2:36. Leeding overall standingto: 1: Gott (IV)
Polt 79m 17mm 25set; 2 Torriow +37set; 3 L
Lebtare Grid Polt +4:min Osset; 4 A Steigr (Seza)
Apps +5:19; 5 N Miceli (II) Ali +5:48; 8 Gueri
n +8:06; 7 Gomtchar +7:42: 8 Gueri

Equestrianism The British Jumping Derby, which was under threat of cancellation, will take

place at Hickstead as scheduled. The meeting, which runs from 14 to 17 August, will be supported by the Paul Schodernöble Group, which also came to the rescue of the Royal International Horse Show, which will be held at Hickstead next month. stead next month. The World Equestrian Games, to be held at Punchestown in Ireland next August, have also acquired a badly needed new sponsor. Pulsar International, of Mon-

sponsor. Pulsar International, of Mon-terney, Mexico, will be providing nearly £160,000 towards the Games. European open misses—Day event change-towards for present the supplies for the second of the surperson of the List: C Bartie (Word Perfect II), 3 Brokeneel (Gracous Ma II), N Burton (The Sourp Deagon), D Diek freedley Bravo), A-M Essens (Dach Freet), W Per-Pitt (Cosmopolitan II), P Ferrelli (Etm and peal and King Solomon III), List (Coptano), A Mortey Quotic Trouble VI), G Paramage (Mag-ic Region), P Phillips (Coral Cave), R Powell (Fint-stone IV), J-P Sharffeel (Witchien Bay), M Taylor (The Prenchmen II), E Waston (Lest of the Intes), J You (Bally Free).

Football

Wolves must wait another two weeks to discover the outcome of their appeal against a compensation payment of £250,000 to Leicester City for the goal-keeper, Zejivo Kalac. They abandoned an attempt to sign the Australian international over work permit problems to sign and wars at these works or sign. ast year, and were subsequently ordere to pay the amount by the Football League.

League. WORLD CUP Asian zone Greep Two (Dames-cus): ten 7 (Baken 34, 53, Majedi 70, 89, Dae 58, Menaversheen 77, Den 84) Kyzygsian 0; Sym 12 (Jokheder ID, 37, 69, 48 Books 71, 78, Baoyed 7, 14, 41-Rice 11, Johben 13, 4-Dha-her 50, Kardaghi 77, Surour 323 Methoes 0. SLOVEMAN CUP Flead first lag: Petronje A-dorscrae 0 Manbor Benik 0 (Second leg 11, June). guesare o serico perio o secon degl. J. Arel. TUESDAYS LATE RESULTS: Le Tournol de Prance (Lyon): France 1 likeler) Brzzi 1 (Rober-to Certos). Austrian League leading final standings: 1 SV Saturo (Prús, Pró 99); 2 Rapid Vienna (36-56); 3 Sturm Grax (36-55).

AMATERIA CHAMPIONSHIP (Royal St George's, Sandwicki) First round (marbis play); C Nicke's (US) bit F Stoleer (Pri 3 and 2; S Walsheld (Timp-tion Park) bit G Homewood (Ashtond Manor) 4 and 3; S Philipson (Prudhoe) bit S Webster (Ried) at 190; S Manon (Burthom) and Benowl bit C Duke

(Forters Park) 4 and 3; S Davis (Redission Park) bit J Hepworth (Beley) 2 and 1; M Allen (Newt) bit J Hepworth (Beley) 2 and 1; M Allen (Newt) bit J Lipton Middlesbrough 2 holes; S Sheeham (US) bit K Artale (Fin) 2 and 1; R Quitor (Sr) bit J Carter (West Ken) 4 and 3; P Feminon (Full deshesheld) bit P Neels (Gard as 20th; I Goroneshod (Fr) on N2-my (Aur) at 18th; J Modgin (Clevedon') to C Bausel (Aur) 2 and 1; R Duck (Northams County) at C Rodges (Royal Mid-Surmy); B Mason (Sand Moor) bit M Houghton (Riddlemansiss) 4 and 3; J Herbert (Fin) (Royal Mid-Surmy); B Mason (Sand Moor) bit M Houghton (Riddlemansiss) 4 and 3; J Herbert (Fin) (Royal Mid-Surmy); B Mason (Sand Moor) bit M Houghton (Riddlemansiss) 4 and 3; J Herbert (Fin) bit C Perry (Aus) 2 holes: D Gleecon (Aus) bit M Hasebase (Nor) 4 and 3; M Wildon John O'Gaurd bit A West-mark (Cenforth at 21st: E Aubert (Fr) bit I typer (Lencistershre) at 19th; D Griffiths (Mest Harts) in N Parlanson (Dore and Todisy) at 19th; A gener (Soi) 2 and 1; R Proc (Mest Nerd) bit J Agener (Soi) 2 and 1; R Proc (Mest Nerd) bit J Agener (Soi) 2 and 1; R Proc (Mest Nerd) bit J Agener (Soi) 2 and 1; D Care (Red) bit M Lental (Conglie) 2 holes: D Partick (Mortanhall) bit A Rotsyth (Redisson) 3 and 2; M Backey (Hayler) or I P Lewre (EUC) and Revelands) 5 and 3; G Fox (Mest (Ubhodo) bit D Herris (Shrewsbury) 3 and 2; B Howard (Corbinans Caster) if P Puritions (Fin) 2 and 1; C Rotsands (Both) kit S Weilefield 3 and 2; Phileson bit G Rankin (Palaeries) in C Ellox (Rotton Pan) 2 and 1; C Rotsands (Both) kit S Weilefield 3 and 2; Phileson bit G Rankin (Palaeries) in C Ellox (Rotton Pan) 2 and 1; C Rotsands (Both) kit S Weilefield 3 and 2; Phileson bit G Rankin (Palaeries) in C Ellox (Rotton Pan) 2 and 1; C Rotsands (Both) kit S Weilefield 3 and 2; Phileson bit G Rankin (Palaeries) in C Ellox (Rotton Pan) 2 and 3; C Fox (Rotsands (Both) kit S Weilefield 3 and 2; Phileson bit G Rankin (Palaeries) in C Ellox (Rotton Pan) 2 and 3; C Fox (Rotsands (Both) kit S Weilefield 3 and 2; Phileson bit

ice hockey

NHL STANLEY CUP Float: Philodelphia 2 Detroit 4 (Depot lead best of amon series 2-0). Motorcycling lan Simpson, the four-times British tan Simpsoli, the local-times of biast champion, broke lap and record speeds in a malden isle of Man TT victory yes-terday. The 29-year-old Daibeattle rac-er produced a sacond-lap speed of

119,86mph on his Honda to win the Supersport 600 Junior TT by almost 30 econds in a record average speed of seconds in a record average speed of 118.41mph.
SEE OF MAN IT RACES: 125cc (4 laps, 150.92 mileo; 1 i Lougher (Honda R125R) 11r 23mm 55.4sec (ass speed 107.88mm); 2 D McCalley; 6 laps, 150.5cc (157.8mm); 124.30s; 6 English (Honda R5125R) 124.30s; 6 English (Honda R5125R) 124.37s; 3 O McReigh (Honda R5125R) 125.30c; 8 G Lee DTR Honda R5125R) 125.30c; 8 G Lee DTR Honda R5125R) 125.30c; 8 G Lee DTR Honda R5125R) 125.51c; 7 G Dynes (Henda R5125R) 125.51c; 8 N Clegg (Honda R5125R)

Pools news

LITTLEWOODS: Trable Chance (max 24pts): 24pts £257.476; 23pts £3,502.95; 22pts £118.55; 22pts £125.55; 22pts £118.55; 22pts £54.00. Helf-time result (max 23pts): £250,000.
VERNONS: Trable chance: 24pts no winder; 23pts £16,053.50; 22pts £68.35; 21pts £36.60. 2.51.01.
ZEITERS: Trable Chance: 24pts no winners: 23pts £4,454.25; 22pts £16.05; 21pts £4.10; 20pts 30p.
RRITIERS: Trable Chance: 23pts £778.65; 22pts £12.95; 21pts £4.00.

Rugby Union TOUR MATCH (Witherle, SAI: Mpumalang) 14 British biles 64. TUESDAY'S LATE RESULY: Tour Match (Mon-doza, Arg: Cuyo 8 England 37.

Speedway

Jim Courier, the former world No 1, has accepted a wild card into the Nottingham Open from 16 to 21 June. Britain's No 5 Andrew Richardson, the 23-year-old world No 252, has been given a wild-card entry into next week's Stella Artos championships at Queen's Club,

Artous championships at Queen's Club, London.
SURREY GRASS COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS (Surbiton) Men's stogles, quarter-finale: J Schrabberg (Aus) to C Wilemson (GB) 6-2 3-6 6-4; R Noeng (SA) to O Septiond (GB) 6-3 7-5; L Poes (Ind) or A Raduleccu (Gen) 6-4 6-3; S Stole (Aus) to E thich (Ge) 6-3 6-4 (S-3; S Stole (Aus) to E thich (Ge) 6-3 7-6; L Poes (Ind) or A Raduleccu (Gen) 6-4 6-3; A Wamming (GB) to T Huxon (Shoush) 6-1 6-3; S Noorlender (Neth) to I, Whodroffe (GB) 8-3 6-3; S Caoc (US) to 1 Latrone (GB) 6-7 6-4 6-4; A Olsza (Pol) to 1, An (GB) 6-2 6-4; K Quee (Aus) to 1 Toylor (Aus) 7-5 6-4; K Kunney (Aus) to 3-8 added (GB) 3-6 5-2 6-3; O Banzermenhova (GB) ab to M Straughnessy (US) 7-5 7-5.

FRENCH OPEN TENNIS RESULTS

(SD) of H Arab (MOT) 4-6 6-3 6-2 6-2. Men's doubles, quarter-finals: T WOOD-BRIDGE and M WOODFORDE (Aus) bt R LEACH and J STARK (US) 6-2 7-6; J EJ-INGH and P HARRHUS (Neth) bt J Eagle and A Florent (Aus) 6-7 6-4 6-2; L Arnold and D Orsanic (Ang) bt T Carboneli and F Rolg (Sp) 4-6 6-4 6-4; Y KAFELNIKOV (Rus) and D VACEK (C; Rep) bt K Braasch and J Knippschild (Gerl 4-6 7-6 6-3.

J Antippsentia (cert 4-6 1-6 6-3. Women's doubles, quarter-floats; G FER-NANDEZ (US) and N ZVERVA (Bela) bt N ARENDT (US) and M BOLLEGRAF (Neth) 7-6 1-6 6-3; M HINGIS (Switt) and A SANCHEZ WCARIO (Sp) bt Y BASUKI (Indon) and C VIS (Neth) 7-6 7-5; A FUSAI and N TALIZIAT [Fr) bt C MARTINEZ (Sp) and P Terabric (Apy) 6-2 6-4; M J FERNANDEZ AND L RAYMOND (US) bt L NELAND (Lat) and H SUKOVA (Cz Rep) 6-2 6-3.

MExced doubles, quarter-finals: M BOLLE-GRAF (Neth) and R LEACH (US) bt B SCHULTZ-McCARTHY (Neth) and P NORVAL (SA) 6-2 6-4.

Boys' doubles, second round (seventeur, ! Bates and D Sherwood (GB) bt T Berendi-jas (Slovent and T Terachi (Japan) 7-5 7-6.





Matherine Butler

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Margara -

Marine ---

White maintainers are

inductor standing at the

debts threat

Atherton wary despite being upbeat

DEREK PRINGLE

Cricket Correspondent

As Michael Atherton walks out to toss with his opposite number this morning at Edgbaston. he will have every reason to feel more than a little upbeat. For one thing, he will have equalled Peter May's record as England captain, an accolade which marks him out as a great survivor. More importantly, however, he knows that his side not only possess a "feel good" momentum, but the psychological high ground as well. It is not often England have been able to claim that against the Aussies

in the last decade and mean it. They are still not the bookmakers favourites, though, for either the series or this first Cornhill Test. And yet Australia's recent showings against the pie throwers and ne'er do wells of county cricket suggest a team struggling to rekindle its focus after a gruelling winter. A team ripe and ready for the tak-

with injuries as well as the continued patchy form of their captain, Mark Taylor, adding uncertainty to the fatigue, Australia have not looked as vulnerable since the huffings and puffings of lan Botham last blew their house down in the 80s. If things continue as they are, Atherton's men could well be on course to regain the Ashes. An outcome unthinkable five months ago as they laboured round Zimbabwe with long faces and short fuses.

Even so, six Tests is an awful long time to rely on your op-ponent's disarray. Which is why Atherton yesterday stressed the need for his side to hit the ground running, though presumably in the recent manner of Donovan Bailey rather than Michael Johnson.

'We need to start well," he said as England went through their pre-match preparations. "From the first ball of the first session we need to grab the initiative early and go from there."

It was a comment that sug-gested that England might well bowl first, though Atherton would not be drawn into re-vealing either his team or his preferences should he win today's toss.

There can be no great secrets, unless Devon Malcolm is not going to play and since Phil Tufnell's departure back to Middlesex, the only position that would seem up for discus-

No 3317. Thursday 5 Jun

No 7 - a place initially thought likely to fall to Mark Ealham and not Adam Hollioake.

Yesterday, however, there were rumours that Hollioake might play after all, which, if true, would mean he would join his Surrey team-mate, Mark Butcher, in making his Test debut. It would also mean that England feel the pitch too sporty to use just three frontline seam bowlers in Darren Gough, Andrew Caddick and

Butcher's promotion after an excellent winter for the "A" team in Australia is proof that England's selectors are looking towards continuity.

"It's a wonderful opportunifor Mark this summer,' Atherton said, "and we hope he can take it. His selection is part of the progression as well as the continuity and it's good to see nine of the players who helped win the two Tests in New

Ian Botham, the man who ed the Australians, is going into cyberspace with ting-life.com on the Internet. The site will include a daily review of all the Test matches against Australia. Botham's Diary, plus his betting tips. In addition, the Ashes series and all the summer's first-class cricket in the County Championship will be covered ball-by-ball. Botham's page can be found at http://www.sporting-life.com/bo-

Zealand still involved. It's the

way it should be.
"We now have a responsibility and a good opportunity to put cricket in the forefront of people's minds. Hopefully we can do it for the right reasons."

But if Atherton and his team are floating on a raft of confidence at the moment, then Taylor - given all the personal criticism he has been through ought to resemble one of those clinging to life in Gericault's painting the "The Wreck of the

That he does not shows the remarkable resilience of the man, though it is doubtful, as he himself admits, whether he would still be captain if his team had lost rather than won the big

games over the past six months. "I've tried to look at everything objectively." he said, talking about his poor run of form with the bat and the near hys-

terical cries from former Test

sion is the all-rounders spot at captains for him to fall on his sword. "But there is more to captaining Australia than opening the innings."

There is also a lot more to Australia than their captain's sketchy form. But while there are those - mainly Australians - who subscribe to the view that players like Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath are only cruising at the moment, understating your hand is not an Aussie trait and they never steal when they can plunder.

Mind you, it may not be long before their batsmen do just that and all the top six, bar Taylor, have played significant innings in the last 10 days. The only doubt appears to be over Greg Blewett, who, providing he passes a fitness test on his knee, will bat at No 3.

To be competitive, England need to play the series around totals of 300. If Australia put big scores on the board which allow Warne and Bevan to bowl with men around the bat, there is only likely to be one long-term

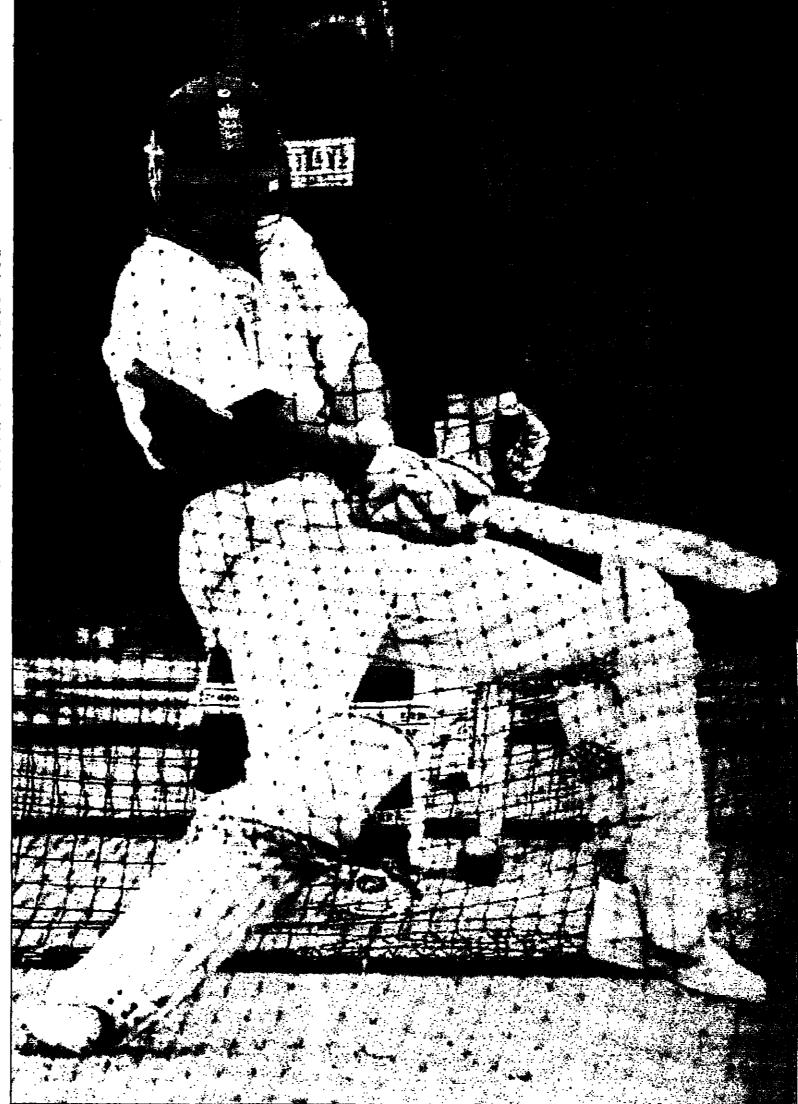
For that reason, pitches are important and none more so than the first one here at Edgbaston. Unsurprisingly, for a venue that has produced some fiery surfaces in the past, the pitch spent most of yesterday being shielded from the sun.

It neither looks as patchy, as cracked or as quick as the lethal surface used against the West Indies here two years ago, though it is still fairly well grassed. Whoever wins the toss will have to weigh up whether it is easier to bat while there is early seam movement or when there is variable bounce later in the match.

Whatever is decided. Warwickshire will be hoping that the match requires a full fourth day's play. So far the first three are completely sold out, with 12,000 advanced tickets already gone for Sunday. That translates into receipts of over a £1.5m, a far cry from the £38,000 taken here in 1978 when Comhill first got involved in Test match spon-

The involvement has proved beneficial for them as well as English cricket, and they yesterday announced a new three year deal worth £9m. It will be the bargain of the decade should England clinch the Ashes. ENGLAND (from): M A Afterton (capt), M A Batcher, A I Stewart (with G P Thorpe, N Hussan, J P Crawler, M 4 Epitam, A I Holoade, P D B Croft, D Gough, A R Cocdick, D E Matcolm.

AISTRALIA: M A Tortor koett, M T G Ellott, G Blewert, M E Wasigh, S P Wasigh, M G Bevan, A Healy Iwich, S R Warre, M S Resproyect, J I Glespie, G D Moderth



England's Nasser Hussain hits out yesterday during practice for today's first Test at Edgbaston

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

ACROSS Government department

given new structure? That's the prediction (8) Old Transvaal leader tak- 25 ing champagne with monarch (6) 10 Permanent secretary

takes care of king in this country (5) 11 Power tool wrongly conceived of as a winch (8)

12 He's on course to provide a better service (4, 10)
15 Minor charge rejected by naturalist (6)

16 Mail – a letter delivery service for us? (6) 18 Virtually no movement in 5 the market? (7, 7) 20 Warmed-up crumpets evoking a range of opin-

Brans Road, Waiford

22 Silly American in pub starting to expatiate (5) Fragments of cheap rop ladder found in drive (6) Prehistoric creature is around, but not as we

> DOWN Chemical substance found in enclosure (8) Real coffee - one of the privileges of office (4) Plaster put over minor lacerations sustained by commanding officer (6) Vegetable depicted by fine artist (4)

Poultry marinated in wine 21 Promise father's forgotof Gaul? (6-4) Hairsplitter's lit of pique about date on article (6)

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Chief is kidnapped by worker, anti-government

type (9)

13 It's not usually an internal flight (4, 6)

14 European's o.g. a winner? Fantastic (9)

17 Second horse mounted (6-2)
18 According to one politi-cian. Yorkshire water's contaminated (6) English bowler's victims

> ten in part (6) Rising to some extent implies parliamentary recess (4)

Stunning, staggering strike of pure genius

lan Ridley on the Brazilian bender' that touched 85mph

There were recriminations in the French camp yes-terday after the 1-1 draw against Brazil in Lyon the night before. The goalkeeper Fabien Barthez blamed himself for not lining up the wall proper-ly. But just how do you defend one of the greatest free-kick goals ever scored?

Imagine the team talk before England play Brazil in Le Tournoi in Paris next Tuesday. "Right boys, says Glenn Hoddle, "if we give away a free-kick in the centre of the field, about 35 yards out, watch this Roberto Carlos. He's liable to take a 15-yard run up from inside the centre circle, drive the ball with the outside of his left foot and curve it back in off the post."

Franck Leboeuf seemed to know what was coming. As Roberto Carlos was winding up, the Chelsen defender turned to Patrice Loko and asked if he had seen him strike a ball before. "No," said Loko. "Just watch," replied Lebouef. It's an easy game from the subs' bench, though. In truth, there was little the French could have

done against a football travelling at 85.2mph. It might have helped having more than four in the wall, but such was the swerve on the ball that a ball boy some four yards to the left of the goal was flinching as it flew goalwards. To question the de-fending is akin to pointing out that Pavarotti's hand-kerchief doesn't look too clean tonight.

Synthetic, lightweight modern material has clearly made a considerable difference to the flight of the ball, but it remains a sturning, staggering strike. "I did score a goal like that against Roma, but it was in the run of play, not a free-kick," Roberto Carios said. "It was an important goal for my career."

As comparison, others from past Brazilians spring to mind. Garrincha's for Brazil against Bulgaria at Goodison Park in 1966, for example, the heavier ball making it more laudable. That by Rivelino in Mexico in 1970 was in a more rarefied atmosphere,

In the modern era, Zico's against Scotland in Spain in 1982 stands out, along with Michel Pla-tini's for France against England in 1984. Then there was Paul Gascoigne's for Tottenham against Arsenal in an FA Cup semi-final at Wembley, and John Barnes also scored brilliantly against the Netherlands in 1993. Roberto Carlos's, for pace. power, distance and direction, surely eclipses them all, however.

Sheringham's snub to £4m, page 29



goal: Brazil's Roberto Carlos swerves the ball round the French wall and into the net Photographs: Sky Sports

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